

Jordan Times

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Turkish strikes kill 150 rebels

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — About 150 Kurdish rebels were killed by Turkish jets and helicopters attacking their mountain-top bases in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Friday. But a senior local official told the Associated Press that he had not seen the bodies yet to corroborate the report. Anatolia said the jets as well as U.S.-made Black Hawk and Cobra helicopters had been pounding since Thursday the rebel camps atop the Cudi, Gabar and Serik mountains. It reported Thursday that at least 35 rebels had been killed in the strikes. The official of the governor's office for southeastern Turkey, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the operations in the snow-covered, rugged region were being conducted by army troops. The guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), have been fighting since 1984 for Kurdish self-rule in southeastern Turkey. About half of Turkey's 12 million Kurds inhabit the area bordering Iraq, Iran and Syria. Last fall, Turkish jets and troops struck across the border at the PKK bases in northern Iraq. Turkish officials said about 1,800 guerrillas had been killed in the cross-border raids.

Diplomats doubt 'Sudan-Iran 'guerrilla' link

KHARTOUM (R) — Charges that Sudan's Islamic government trained Muslim guerrillas, with the help of Iranian military advisers, are unproved and probably untrue, Western diplomats in Khartoum say. They say Egypt spread graphic reports of an international Islamic conspiracy to overthrow secular governments in the region which alleged that Iranian advisers were training Muslim militants from all over the world in Sudanese desert camps. "Egypt put these stories about, but it's really been blown out of proportion," one diplomat said. The charge has led to tension with Western countries. The United States last year added Sudan to its list of countries which support "terrorism," a roster that includes Libya and Iran. However, Western diplomats are concerned that Sudan offers a haven for guerrillas from other Arab countries. Sudan gives automatic residence to all Arab nationals and diplomats say it has attracted many political activists in trouble with their own governments. "The Sudanese have never been terrorists ... but those on Interpol's wanted list can stay as long as they want and while they're here they pick up different backgrounds," one diplomat said.

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Russia recalls 2 ships from Gulf

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Russian warships posted with the multi-lateral force in the Gulf are being pulled back for maintenance, a spokesman said Friday. The move comes as Russian lawmakers criticize the U.S.-led bombing raid. Spokesman Alexander Vedelyayev insisted that the withdrawal of the ships — which did not take part in Wednesday's attack on Iraq — has no connection with the fighting or with political pressure from Russian hardliners. The anti-submarine ship Admiral Vinogradov and escort tanker Boris Butoma first arrived in the Gulf last October to take part in the force under the United Nations resolutions against Iraq. Mr. Vedelyayev told the Associated Press that the Vinogradov "is really moving southeast for maintenance and minor repairs." The Vinogradov will be refuelled by the tanker, and the ships will move southwards together.

Weizman seeks Israeli presidency

TEL AVIV (R) — The ruling Labour Party has chosen Ezer Weizman, one of the architects of Israeli-Egyptian peace, as its candidate for the ceremonial position of president of Israel. Mr. Weizman, 68, is the nephew of Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann, and a former air force chief. He is widely expected to be chosen by parliament when it convenes on March 24 to elect a successor to Chaim Herzog.

Palestinian fighters clash in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — Masked gunmen shot dead a Palestinian member of a Muslim fundamentalist faction and a fighter was killed and two others were wounded in retaliation, police said Friday. The conflict began Thursday night when the unidentified gunmen killed Tarik Hamad, a 24-year-old member of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, in the refugee camp of Ein Al Hilweh, on the south-eastern outskirts of Sidon. The fundamentalists blamed Fateh, the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction, for the slaying and took to the streets seeking revenge. They grabbed a Fateh guerrilla, Mahmoud Abul Kul, in the street, beat him and shot him in the leg. His brother, Nasser, also a member in Fateh, and a number of comrades rushed to the street and opened fire at the fundamentalists. Nasser Abul Kul was killed and one of his associates was wounded in an ensuing clash.

Egyptian police kill suspected militant

CAIRO (R) — Police shot dead a suspected Muslim militant in central Egypt as he was trying to escape from prison disguised in women's clothes. Police General Yasser Shaker said Friday. Gen. Shaker, security chief in Beni Suef 110 kilometres south of Cairo, told reporters the shooting took place on Thursday outside the town's prison. Ibrahim Sayed Ahmad, 20, was being held pending investigation of charges he was involved in attacks by Muslim militants in southern Egypt, he said. A veiled woman and another person visited Ahmad and provided him with a dress, Gen. Shaker said. Once out of prison, Ahmad tried to stab suspicious jail guards but they shot him dead. Police launched a nationwide crackdown last month on Islamic militants seeking to overthrow the government and replace it with a restricted Islamic state. More than 700 suspects have been arrested throughout Egypt.

U.S. to encircle Haiti with ships

MIAMI (AP) — U.S. ships and planes will encircle Haiti to prevent a feared mass exodus of up to 200,000 refugees, the head of the U.S. Coast Guard said Friday. "This is not a blockade," said Admiral J. William Kime, calling the effort a humanitarian move coordinated with both the U.S. and incoming Clinton administrations. President-elect Bill Clinton said Thursday that he would have the coast guard continue intercepting and returning Haitians "for the time being," despite his campaign pledge to provide refuge (see page 8).

U.S., Iraq on new collision course

Baghdad reports chasing off allied planes; Bush serves new ultimatum; U.S. troops in Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ, ON a fresh collision course with the United States, said Friday its air defences had chased off a warplane patrolling a Western-imposed "no-fly" zone in the south.

"Our air defences continued their heroic confrontation of a hostile aerial target and forced it to flee," a military spokesman said.

The spokesman, whose remarks were reported on television and by the official news agency, did not say whether any anti-aircraft guns or missiles had been fired.

"Confronting" could mean the switching on of radar, which can be detected by patrolling Western pilots and has been treated by the United States in the past as a threatening act.

U.S. President George Bush told Iraq Friday that it must

within hours grant clearance for flights into the country by experts scrapping its weapons of mass destruction. The warning was also delivered to Iraq's U.N. representative by the United States, Britain, France and Russia.

Asked if the West was ready to bomb Iraq again, the president told reporters in Washington: "I never say what we do or don't do. Sufficient warnings have been granted."

Mr. Bush made his comments two days after a U.S.-led fleet of planes bombed air missile sites inside Iraq in retaliation for provocations that officials said breached the terms of the U.N. resolution that ended the 1991 Gulf war.

"The United Nations has informed Saddam Hussein that if flight clearance is not granted by 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (2100 GMT) today, Iraq will be in noncompliance," the president said.

"The coalition partners are firm in demanding compliance with the United Nations resolutions," he said.



Sailors aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk load bombs onto warplanes Thursday (APF)

At the United Nations, representatives from the United States, Britain, France and Russia met Friday with

Iraq's U.N. ambassador to demand the immediate resumption of U.N. inspection flights, diplomatic sources

said. The Iraqi mission refused comment (Continued on page 5)

U.S. stand seen to prompt Israeli agreement with ICRC

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The International Committee of the Red Cross said Friday it had reached an agreement with Israel to take medical supplies to Palestinian evacuees in southern Lebanon and evacuate nine expelled by mistake.

"There is an agreement now and we hope that tomorrow we can go to the camp and bring in medical assistance... and bring back the nine deported by mistake," said Pierre Ryter, the deputy head of the ICRC in Israel and the occupied territories.

Mr. Ryter said Israel also agreed to allow the ICRC to take to hospital sick expellees whose lives are in danger.

Earlier, a government official said that in a change of policy, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was now willing in principle to let humanitarian aid reach the expelled Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin previously barred aid from going to the more than 400 expellees through Israeli lines, arguing Lebanon was responsible for the men.

His "concession," apparently aimed at easing U.N. pressure on Israel, came after Foreign Minis-

ter Shimon Peres reported to him on his meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Dr. Ghali has hinted he will push for sanctions against Israel if it does not show greater flexibility. The U.N. Security Council has condemned the Dec. 17 expulsions and demanded the men be repatriated.

Mr. Peres told Israel Television that Dr. Ghali was sending an envoy to Israel next week to continue to discuss the problem, but added that there was no overall solution yet in sight.

"This envoy will come in the middle of next week, so we have time to continue and deal with the different proposals on the agenda," Mr. Peres said.

"Of course, with this solution we do not want to give Hamas a prize or fine ourselves," Mr. Peres said. "We don't want to be in a confrontation with the United Nations and also do not want to retreat from the message we delivered."

Israel has accused the expelled men of being active in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, two Islamic fundamentalist movements that

have been blamed for the killings of six Israeli troops.

U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Thursday that pressure to impose mandatory U.N. sanctions against Israel will increase so long as Israel does not resolve the plight of the expelled Palestinians.

"It ought to be clear to everybody as they (the Palestinians) sit there in their snow-covered tents that that just can't go on much longer," Mr. Eagleburger told reporters aboard his plane while en route home from a trip to Paris.

Mr. Eagleburger said he agrees with Israel's contention that the Palestinians are dangerous subversives but added that expulsion is not the answer.

One solution, he said, is to return the Palestinians and incarcerate them.

The increasing pressure for Security Council action against Israel puts Israel and the United States in an awkward position, he said.

He added that he raised the

NATO offers to enforce 'no-fly' zone in Bosnia

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), agreeing to take on a military mission beyond its borders for the first time, offered Friday to organise the enforcement of a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia if the U.N. decides warplanes should be used.

The offer was contained in a letter from NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner sent to the United Nations on Friday, alliance sources told Reuters. All 16 NATO members had agreed to the idea.

If accepted by the U.N., it would mark the first military operation under NATO command beyond the borders of its member states and could set a precedent for using the alliance as an enforcing arm for the international community.

But the United Nations would be able to call a halt to NATO-run military flights over Bosnia at any time, especially if the world body felt troops helping deliver humanitarian aid in the former Yugoslavia were in danger of being attacked.

"NATO would be in charge of the operation, but the ultimate authority will rest with the U.N. and there will be a clear link with the U.N. on the ground in Bosnia," said one source.

U.N. trucks carrying vital food to Bosnia have become a daily target for snipers and shelling, with all three warring factions viewing the United Nations as the "saviour of the enemy," a spokeswoman said.

In one bizarre incident this week, a truck delivered diesel fuel to Sarajevo's Kosevo hospital was shelled from within the grounds of the hospital itself, the official said.

But despite the increase in attacks, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) intends to continue operating as the main relief agency in Yugoslavia.

"The U.N. is becoming a target," Sylvana Foa, UNHCR spokeswoman told a news briefing. "Everywhere we go, we are the object of shelling and sniper fire."

The number of security incidents — snipers and shelling of our convoys — is increasing, up to two per day," she added.

A week ago, a Serb gunman assassinated a Bosnian government minister who was riding in a U.N. armoured personnel carrier, dealing a heavy blow to the respect for the United Nations.

Since the killing, the Bosnian government has asked for General Philippe Morillon to be replaced as head of the U.N. protection force in Bosnia.

3 killed in Gaza in 2 days

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A Palestinian wielding two knives stabbed and wounded four people at Tel Aviv's central bus station during rush hour Friday and was then shot dead by a bystander, police said.

The 25-year-old attacker, from the occupied Gaza Strip, knifed two Israelis, a Lebanese and a Pole, radio reporters said. One of the Israelis, a 24-year-old immigrant from Russia, was seriously wounded, police said.

The attack came a day after troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded at least 35 in Gaza. The two dead, a 14-year-old boy and a 62-year-old man, were killed during raids on homes where troops said wanted Palestinians were hiding.

The older man was killed in the town of Deir Al Balah when he

tried to flee from house being bombed with anti-tank missiles by troops hunting for wanted men.

The army said the slain man was an innocent bystander. One house was destroyed and two damaged in the raid, but no wanted men were found, the army said.

On Friday, five more Palestinians were wounded by troops during protests outside the Khann Yunis home of the 14-year-old killed Wednesday, Palestinian reporters said.

Troops also shot and wounded three Palestinians in Jabalya refugee camp, Palestinian sources said. They said troops also arrested a Palestinian cameraman, Marwan Al Ghol, employed by Reuters television.

The attack at the Tel Aviv bus

station began at 6:15 a.m. (0415GMT). The attacker stabbed a customer in a cafe, then ran and knifed three more people, police said. He charged his victims shouting "Allahu Akbar," radio reports said.

Gil Dvir, 23, who was working in a nearby kiosk, shot and wounded the assailant, police said. Witnesses said the Palestinian was beaten by an angry mob while lying wounded on the ground.

Police took him and first aid was administered but he died, a police statement said. It said a third knife was found concealed on his body.

The assailant was identified as Fakhry Al Dahdoudh, 23, from Gaza City.

(Continued on page 3)

Somalis sign new ceasefire

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Leaders of Somalia's warring factions Friday signed a ceasefire, but prospects for a conference to rebuild the country's shattered government remained in jeopardy.

The 14 factions, in the largest such gathering since their country disintegrated two years ago, could not agree on who should attend the conference, which has been tentatively scheduled for March 15 in Addis Ababa.

The factions referred the dispute to a committee.

The ceasefire, signed by all 14 groups, calls for militias' heavy arms to be placed under control of the U.S.-led multinational military force now in Somalia.

About 32,000 foreign troops

have arrived in Somalia since Dec. 9 to safeguard relief supplies. About 350,000 Somalis are thought to have died of famine caused by drought and warfare, with a further two million at risk.

The ceasefire, to take effect immediately, also calls for militias to live in camps outside large towns.

With no telecommunications left in Somalia, it was unclear how the leaders here could quickly relay word of the agreement to their forces.

The country's rival warlords, Ali Mahdi Mohammad and Mohammad Farah A'deede, signed the agreement with their allies after more than a week of deadlocked talks.

But the murder of a Swiss aid

worker showed the extent of gun law in their ruined nation.

The pact was signed hours after U.S. officials announced that Kurt Lustenberger had been shot dead in the southern town of Bardere by one of the myriad gunmen who prey on relief work (see page 2).

"Somalia is not going to go on fighting. There will be no factional fighting and we shall try to resolve our differences through dialogue," General Aidede told the closing session of the talks in Addis Ababa.

But few Western diplomats, U.N. officials or Somalis believe that Somali militias or freelance gunmen will easily surrender the very weapons which give them power.

Troops patrol Kinshasa

KINSHASA (R) — Heavily armed troops patrolled the deserted streets of Zaire's capital Friday at the start of a general strike called by an opposition movement bent on legal moves to impeach President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The president was in Morocco, officially for a 49-hour visit, as the campaign to end his 28-year reign gathered pace.

On Thursday night the interim parliament, the High Council of the Republic (HCR), declared Mr. Mobutu guilty of high treason. It said he would face trial in the supreme court unless he replied within eight days to accusations that he was undermining moves towards democracy in Zaire.

The Sacred Union, a coalition of anti-Mobutu parties, has called for a one-week campaign of civil disobedience starting on Friday to try to force Mr. Mobutu to quit after 28 years.

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Somali gunmen kill Red Cross worker

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali gunmen shot dead a Swiss delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the famine town of Bardere, ICRC officials said Friday.

They said Kurt Lustenberger, an administrator born in 1961, had been killed at his house by men demanding money.

He was the second foreign aid worker killed in Somalia since a U.S.-led force landed on Dec. 9 to stop gangsters and armed clansmen looting relief goods for the starving.

Famine has eased in much of central and southern Somalia, but relief workers are still uncovering pockets of tragedy.

In Afmadow, 400 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu, at least 20 people are dying daily, Brenda Barton, spokeswoman for the U.N. world food programme, told reporters Friday.

German military aircraft will drop 32 tonnes of wheat in four flights a day for the rest of the week to feed 5,000 people stranded in Afmadow by flooded roads and lawlessness.

Details of Mr. Lustenberger's murder were sketchy, but an ICRC official said he had been shot in the head.

"Bandits went into his house to ask for money. Then they shot him in the forehead. He died during transport from Bardere to Mogadishu," Catherine Cazeaux, an ICRC official, told Reuters in Nairobi. He was shot at about 9.30 p.m. (1830 GMT) Thursday.

In a separate incident, a knife-

wielding Somali tried to stab an American soldier in the back in the port of Merca, about 80 kilometres south of Mogadishu, on Thursday.

"He was saved by his flak jacket and the Somali disappeared back into the crowd," U.S. Army spokeswoman Captain Karen Conley said. She did not know what had motivated the attack.

About 34,500 foreign troops, 24,000 of them American, have joined Operation Restore Hope, but Somalia remains awash in guns despite task force swoops on weapons caches and arms bazars.

U.S. forces spotted two aeroplanes surrounded by at least 18 vehicles at an airfield about 50 kilometres west of Mogadishu on Thursday, U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said Friday.

About 70 Somalis unloading cargo from the planes fled when the Americans approached. The planes escaped but three trucks containing 150,000 rounds of AK-47 assault rifles were seized.

Mr. Mawlawi said the U.S. military, which briefed relief agencies on the incident, had no other details.

Last month, Sean Devereux, an Irish relief worker, was shot to death by Somali gunmen in the southern port of Kismayu. The motive was unknown.

One American civilian and a U.S. Marine have been killed since U.S. troops arrived in Somalia on Dec. 9.

Also Thursday, U.S. Marines said snipers fired at two of their

convoy and the troops returned fire. A U.S. military spokesman said a Somali was believed killed but the Marines suffered no casualties.

The United Nations estimates 20,000 troops, plus military observers and civilian police, will be needed to replace American-led combat troops in Somalia once the U.S. umbrella is withdrawn.

Diplomats attending a Wednesday meeting with peace-keeping officials on the future of the U.N. force said the estimate was given by General Maurice Baril of Canada, the U.N. military adviser.

The current U.S.-led task force has units from Italy, Belgium, France and Turkey.

No dates for deployment were given and no cost estimates were made at the meeting called by Marrack Goulding, the U.N. undersecretary-general for peace-keeping operations, and including Brandon Grove, chairman of the U.S. State Department task force on Somalia, and Pentagon officials.

The American officials at the meeting emphasised that the U.N. troops would have to function as more than peace-keepers and operate under similar rules of engagement as the current task force, which uses force whenever necessary. This would mean a mandate from the Security Council.

But German sources said that Bonn, which planned to contribute 1,500 support troops, could not participate if a Security Coun-

cil resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter which spells out the use of force.

Instead, Germany and some Scandinavian countries want any resolution to allow force only in self-defence or against impediments in delivering relief supplies.

A U.N. statement said only that the briefing "underlined the importance of a smooth and seamless transition" and "emphasised the importance of the secretary-general attaches to the rebuilding of Somali institutions, including the re-establishment of an indigenous police force."

Peace talks over the last two weeks between Somalia warlords and clan leaders in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa have not reached agreement on a ceasefire or a future conference to establish an interim government.

Both the United Nations and the United States hope some of the countries in the task force would be willing to stay in place after most of the American troops leave.

The French and the Canadians have indicated they plan to depart with the Americans. Pakistan, which has 500 troops under U.N. command, plans to beef up its contingents and Australia has said it would stay for 17 weeks.

But envoys said it was clear that the United Nations had a long way to go before enough countries would volunteer the necessary number of troops. The United States plans to leave some logistics units and rapid deployment forces based off shore.

Sex scandal hits Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli parliament member Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's media superstar during the Gulf war, admitted to having an extra-marital affair Thursday and said he was being blackmailed by a member of his own party.

Mr. Netanyahu, in the midst of a heated primary campaign for leadership of the opposition Likud Party, said members of his own party were threatening to expose him if he did not withdraw from the campaign.

"Yesterday at 6 p.m. someone called while I was out of the house at an election rally. He warned my wife... that if I don't withdraw from the campaign for leadership of the Likud the information will be made public," Mr. Netanyahu said on Israel Television.

Asked who was behind the threat Mr. Netanyahu said: "It is a senior member of the Likud."

Mr. Netanyahu, 43, has been the leading contender to replace former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as head of the party in its first free primary election in March.

He has run an unprecedented U.S.-style advertising campaign in Israeli newspapers. His youthful image in a country used to elderly prime ministers has prompted comparisons with U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton.



Benjamin Netanyahu

Mr. Netanyahu admitted on Israel Television to having an affair but said it was over.

"There was such a thing. It ended a few months ago. What we have here is a personal matter... if I have a debt, and I have a debt on this matter, it is to my wife, my family and no-one else," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu's main rivals in the Likud are former Foreign Minister David Levy, 54, and Benjamin Begin, 49, the son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Mr. Netanyahu, speaking flawlessly in English, appeared regularly on U.S. television when Scud missiles landed in Israel during the Gulf war.

Lockerbie plot hatched in U.S. and Lebanon, former operative says

CHICAGO (R) — Islamic fundamentalists in the United States and Lebanon planned the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland in 1988 and it may have been paid for by Iran, a former Palestinian activist said in an interview released Wednesday.

The bombing was carried out by supporters of Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP-GC), but without Mr. Jibril's knowledge or permission, said the Palestinian, identified as Major Tunayb, said to be a Russian-trained, former high-ranking member of that group.

Tunayb, in an interview with journalist Morgan Strong published in the February issue of Playboy magazine, said the operation "began in America and passed through Lebanon and then returned as far as Lockerbie" in the hands of Khalid Jaafar, a 20-year-old resident of Dearborn, Michigan, who died in the crash.

"I don't think it was either Syrians or Libyans" who paid for the operation, Tunayb said. "Jibril knew nothing of this operation. What I can confirm is that the operation was carried out by Jibril's group together with Lebanese fundamentalists," he said.

Tunayb was described in the article as a 17-year veteran of the PFLP-GC who was its intelligence chief and a member of the executive committee.

He defected from the group in a dispute with its more radical factions and was granted temporary asylum in an undisclosed Middle East country, the article said.

He said in the interview it was "possible" Iran was behind the bombing but "I have no precise knowledge."

Jaafar's name was surfaced over the years since the tragedy as a possible operative for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

"Jaafar was connected to the DEA in the U.S. I am sure of it," Tunayb said, adding that Jaafar was in contact with a "Shiite group in Detroit."

"The operation had been organised by fundamentalist groups in the U.S.," Tunayb said. "They knew that Jaafar worked with the DEA. They wanted to take

advantage of the relationship between Jaafar and the DEA to organise some operations in the future — whether smuggling or something for the benefit of the fundamentalist group."

Khalid Jaafar travelled frequently to Lebanon with the knowledge of U.S. intelligence in order to follow the activities of drug traffickers from Lebanon to America and Europe. The last time he came to Lebanon there was coordination between the fundamentalists and the group following Jibril.

"During that trip he was with two agents from U.S. intelligence who accompanied him all the way to Jamiyah (in Lebanon). He believed he was carrying documents that concerned fundamentalists in Lebanon."

"He had a bag that did contain documents but it was later exchanged with the one containing explosives. He then went to Jamiyah to wait for the American agents. He told them he had received the desired documents."

"They then accompanied him on his trip to Cyprus and his bag was not searched at the airport. This occurred with the knowledge of the CIA," he added.

He went on to say that the members of Mr. Jibril's group who carried out the operation were under the command of Abu Ahmad who was living between Beirut and Bekaa at the time of the interview last spring.

The DEA told congressional investigators in late 1990 that Jaafar did not work for the agency, the article noted, but declined to state in open testimony whether it had ever investigated his background or was aware he frequently travelled to the Middle East.

Two Libyans, Abdul Basit Ali Mohammad Al Meghrabi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, were indicted by a U.S. grand jury in the bombing. They were also charged in Scotland with murder and conspiracy in the bombing, which killed all 259 people aboard the Jumbo jet and 11 on the ground near Lockerbie.

Strong suggests in his article that the U.S. government has been eager to steer the Lockerbie investigation away from Iran because the country continues to remain a pivotal Middle Eastern power.

Experts advise Clinton to repair ties with Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of top Iran experts Thursday advised incoming President Bill Clinton to overcome emotional hostility on both sides and attempt the difficult task of improving ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hooshang Amirahmadi of Rutgers University said he recently returned from Iran where, in talks with leading officials, he found that "Iran considers the change of administration in the United States as an opportunity for a new beginning."

Adding to the mountain of advice Mr. Clinton is getting as he prepares to take over the White House, a panel of eight experts agreed that a critical problem is misperceptions on both sides leading to "demonisation" of the other.

Richard Cottam of the University of Pittsburgh, author of two books on Iran, said Iran and the United States were involved in a "spiral conflict," in which both sides misinterpreted defensive actions by the other as threatening.

The United States has placed powerful military forces in the Gulf region to defend its small, oil-producing allies and keep the oil flowing to the West but Iran sees these forces as part of a plot to destroy the Islamic republic.

Iran, feeling threatened, builds up its military power — in fact spending less than U.S. allies such as Saudi Arabia, R. K. Ramazani of the University of Virginia said. "The central tenet of Iran's foreign policy is resistance to foreign control."

But, completing the spiral, many U.S. leaders see the purchase of arms as part of an aggressive campaign to force radical Islamic government on other countries.

Shireen Hunter of Georgetown University and the Centre for Strategic Studies said with the Soviet Union collapsed, some U.S. leaders are looking for a new villain to fit the cold war model.

Iran and the rise of Islam "is the obvious candidate for providing the overarching new threat," she said.

"If the incoming Clinton administration were to make a serious, patient effort to normalize relations with Iran, it would cut into the spiral," professor Cottam said.

He said Mr. Clinton's chosen defence secretary, Les Aspin, shares the view of Bush administration officials that Iran is an aggressive demon. But the new secretary of state, Warren Christopher, and national security adviser, Anthony Lake, "see the situation in rich complexity" and may resist the spiral.

Prof. Shaul Bakhash of George Mason University said the rise of Islam was rooted in internal factors such as economic and political injustice and Arab countries find it convenient to blame Iran.

Frydman said a distinction must be made between countries where Iran is involved in Islamic fundamentalist movements, such as Lebanon and Sudan, and where it is not significantly involved such as Algeria, Egypt and Jordan.

Richard Murphy, former assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, said the outlook for improved relations was bleak and hostility towards Iran would be carried over from the Bush to the Clinton administration.

He said U.S. military presence in the Gulf region, more open than at any time since the British left the area in 1971, "guarantees friction between Washington and whatever government rules Iran."

Mr. Murphy warned against the United States being "painted into an anti-Islamic corner" alienating all Muslims by heavy-handed behaviour towards Iran.

He suggested that in dealing with the perceived threats from Iran: Support for terrorism, backing for Muslim fundamentalists, nuclear buildup — U.S. leaders look at Iran's actual behaviour and not interpretations of its motivation.

The panel discussion, titled "The Clinton Administration and the Future of U.S.-Iran Relations," was organised by Rutgers and the College of William and Mary.

Iraq 'no-fly' zones questionable in international law

UNITED NATIONS (R) — With the blessing of U.N. Secretary-General, the United States and its allies launched a raid on Iraqi missile batteries in southern Iraq for the purpose of enforcing Security Council resolutions.

Yet there never was a Security Council resolution or discussion on establishing or enforcing a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq, which was created by the United States, Britain, France and Russia last August.

In contract, the establishment of an air exclusion zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina entailed a council debate and resolution in October. Military of the air ban, now under discussion, needs a second resolution.

Consequently, the legal distinction between those measures authorised by the United Nations and those taken by the allies is more muddled than ever.

"The main military purpose

of the raid was an act of self-defence for the allied planes monitoring the 'no-fly' zone in the south of Iraq," said a senior European envoy.

But "the political purpose is to bring about Iraqi compliance with all security council resolutions," he added.

Only Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun and the Baghdad government questioned the legality of the "no-fly" zone while other U.N. members were silent.

"It's a measure of Iraq's isolation and unpopularity that states are treating this as an exceptional case," said one Western diplomat.

Before the attack, the Security Council twice warned of "serious consequences" if Iraq continued to defy the landmark Resolution 687 which set the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

The council, however, referred only to Baghdad new ban on U.N. aircraft ferrying weapons inspectors and its in-

cursions to retrieve military hardware from an area that a U.N. boundary commission has demarcated Kuwaiti territory.

As the allied strike was about to begin Wednesday, Mr. Hamdoun said Baghdad would halt incursions into the area and would rescind the order banning U.N. aircraft.

"Let us make it clear. The bombing was in reaction to the demands that Iraq should remove all the missiles from the 'no-fly' zone," said Japanese Ambassador Yoshio Hatano, this month's Security Council president.

"As far as the Security Council is concerned... it appears that in general our demands are met," he added.

However, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, at a Paris luncheon on Thursday took a different track, saying that "the countries which carried out the strike were mandated by the Security Council."

The Western allies argue that the air raids were prompted by Iraq's deployment of surface-to-air missiles in "no-fly" zones imposed in the south to protect Shiite-Muslims last August and in the north to prevent attacks against Kurds after the 1991 Gulf war.

The United States bases its legal argument on Resolution 688, adopted by the Security Council in April 1991, which demands that Iraq stop repression of its population.

But the resolution, hotly debated at the time as setting a new precedent, did not, as other resolutions against Iraq passed the same month, carry enforcement provisions under the U.N. Charter that allows military force.

Britain and France have been more gingerly in their approach, saying that the "no-fly" zones broke new ground in international humanitarian law to prevent potential genocide.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Aventures de L'espace
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Fenetre sur
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	
America's Funniest Home Videos	
21:00	Perspectives
21:30	Varieties
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "The Return of Sam McCloud"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:10	Fajr
06:12	Sunrise (Doha)
11:45	Dhuhr
14:34	Asr
16:59	Maghreb
18:29	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlah, Tel. 610740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Teresian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	2 / 9
Aqaba	7 / 17

Deserts	0 / 11
Jordan Valley	8 / 15
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 19, Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fehri Abu Tayeh	883880
Dr. Mohammad Ma'n	741444
Dr. Walid Masi	675485
Dr. Abdul Kadir Allala	696048
Ferdous pharmacy	661912
First Pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644645
Shamsan pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRABT:	
Dr. Omar Tahatouni	(-)
Al Quds Pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Samir Al Lowzi	989601
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
Regin	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	674155
Regin	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101

Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Electric Power	815615
Company	636381
RU Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
De Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)909090
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Al Nufusa Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:15	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:15	Dhahran (RJ)
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323	

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia, Yemen adjourn border talks

DAHRAN (R) — Saudi and Yemeni Officials have ended a fourth round of talks on a dispute over a potentially oil-rich border region saying that a further meeting was to be held. A joint statement issued Thursday night said the four days of talks in Riyadh were held in a "cordial and brotherly atmosphere." Both sides agreed to meet again in Sanaa at a date to be decided later. Neither side mentioned any progress achieved. Yemen said last year that Saudi claims to the potentially oil-rich areas of Hadramout, Maib and Al Jof made it necessary to resolve the dispute as soon as possible. Relations between Saudi Arabia and its southern neighbour, already strained due to Yemen's pro-Iraq stance during the Gulf crisis, deteriorated last April when Riyadh warned Western oil firms against exploring in areas it considered Saudi territory.

Algeria frees 6,000 prisoners but no militants

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has freed 6,000 prisoners in an amnesty which excludes fundamentalists jailed on state security charges. Algerian Television said Thursday. The television said Algerian Head of State Ali Kafi officially declared the amnesty to mark the anniversary of pro-independence demonstrations on Dec. 11, 1960. The announcement also comes a year to the day after the establishment of the current leadership on Jan. 14, 1992, following the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid and the cancelling of elections the fundamentalists were set to win. The television said Muslim militants jailed for threatening state security and prisoners held on corruption charges were excluded from the amnesty.

Two Pakistanis arrested in heroin seizure

PHILADELPHIA (R) — U.S. law enforcement officials said Thursday two Pakistanis had been arrested and \$180 million worth of heroin seized during the break up of a massive importation conspiracy. The U.S. Justice Department said in a release that Mohammed Salim Malik and Shahid Hafeez Khawaja, were arrested in Karachi, Pakistan Monday on a U.S. indictment charging them with heroin importation charges. The Justice Department said the two shipped 45 kilograms of heroin from Pakistan to Philadelphia in October, as part of an agreement negotiated with undercover agents to import about 500 kilograms of the drug. The initial shipment of high purity heroin was one of the largest seized in U.S. history. The Justice Department said: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's special agent in charge of the Philadelphia office, Bob Reuter, told a local radio station the seized shipment was equivalent to about nine million doses with a street value of \$180 million. The agreed full shipment would have been worth about \$2 billion on the street. The United States has requested the two be extradited from Pakistan, a process likely to take 12 to 18 months, and the arrested men are expected to remain in jail without bail in the meantime, the justice department said.

S. Koreans may be evacuated from Kuwait, Iraq

SEOUL (R) — South Korea has told its diplomats to prepare for the evacuation of more than 260 South Korean citizens from Kuwait and Iraq, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday. "As the tension is growing in

Madanat asked to delete 'socialism' from party papers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior has asked the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party to remove the word "socialist" from its name so as to be legalised, informed sources told Al Arabiya daily.

The sources said Interior Minister Jawdat Al Bshoul met with the secretary general of the party, Issa Madanat, and asked him to delete any reference to socialism in the party's manifesto which is filed along with its application for licence, the sources said Friday.

In a prolonged debate between the two, Mr. Madanat told the minister that he had been a communist for more than 50 years, and this fact was known to the

Royal Court when he was invited to participate in the General Commission which drafted the National Charter.

When Mr. Bshoul replied by saying that there was no mention of socialism in the National Charter, Mr. Madanat said the National Charter had highlighted the concept of political and intellectual pluralism.

"We do not necessarily have to be capitalist to be licensed," Mr. Madanat said.

Al Ra'i quoted the sources as saying that the minister promised to grant the party a licence "tomorrow" if they deleted any reference to socialism.

The party applied for legalisation at the ministry Dec. 31, 1992.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Abu Jaber meets Brazilian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber received Thursday the newly-appointed Brazilian ambassador to Jordan at the Foreign Ministry. The Ambassador handed Dr. Abu Jaber copies of his credentials.

Spanish foreign minister due here

AMMAN (Petra) — The Spanish foreign minister will arrive in Amman Wednesday on a several-day official visit to Jordan. The minister will meet senior Jordanian officials for talks on bilateral relations and the peace process.

Minister offers training to engineers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing announced last week that it would start registering names of recently graduated engineers willing to train with the ministry. Only engineers who graduated after 1988 will be allowed to register in the training programme, provided they are not working now in their field of specialisation, the announcement said. It added that applicants should have finished, postponed or were exempted from the two-year military conscription. Sources at the ministry said the programme will last for 12 months, during which the trainees will be receiving a monthly allowance of JD 100. They said the ministry will be receiving application forms for the programme between Feb. 1 and Feb. 4. The ministry has first held such programme in 1991. A total of 454 engineers benefited from the programme over the past two years.

Rape suspects acquitted

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Criminal Court has decided to acquit three persons accused of raping a middle-aged woman in Zarqa, according to a report published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The case against the three was dropped because of lack of evidence, the report said. It quoted the defence attorney Raed Abdul Atham as saying that no material evidence was presented against the defendants to convince the court to indict them. The only evidence was a report by the forensic doctor which ruled out that any violence was used with the women. Besides, he added, the defence managed to refute the testimonies of the witnesses in the case because they were contradictory.

Industrial seminar ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on industrial automation concluded its work last week at the University of Jordan's Engineering and Technology Faculty. The two-day seminar, which was organised by the faculty's industrial engineering department in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), discussed six working papers dealing with computerised controlling, flexible industrialisation systems, programmed controllers digital controlling and other issues. A total of 35 engineers working in both private and public sector companies participated in the seminar.

24 killed, 700 injured in car accidents in December

AMMAN (Petra) — Thirty-four people were killed and 700 others injured in 1810 car accidents which occurred last month, the Traffic Department announced Wednesday. Some 1,559 accidents took place inside cities during the month, causing the death of 28 persons, the department said. Meanwhile, the Public Security Department is about to start a pioneering plan which aims to protect school children from car accidents. The plan, which will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, aims to spread awareness among students of ways to deal with vehicles and cross the street safely.

Ministry urges clear display of prices

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply last week urged all storekeepers to make sure that all tag prices are placed in a clear manner on all commodities displayed at their stores. All commodities under display, whether their prices are fixed by the Ministry of Supply or not, should have price labels clearly placed on them, the ministry said. It called on all store owners to display a list of commodity prices of items that would be difficult to carry a price label.

ACC holds training courses

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) Mansur Ben Tarif today (Saturday) opens a two-week training course on agricultural credit and analysis of agricultural projects. Taking part in the course will be 10 agricultural engineers who have just joined the corporation. Participants will be briefed on theoretical, economic and financial aspects of the agricultural credit process and methods of analysis of agricultural projects expenses, including the basic principles of financing and credit, sources of finance, projects' capital, and analysis of financial lists of agricultural projects.

65,300 tonnes of vegetable reached market in December

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) Director General Salem Al Lawzi Friday said the central vegetable markets in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa received, in December 1992, a total of 65,300 tonnes of vegetables. The figure includes 860 tonnes of imported vegetables and 68 tonnes of vegetables from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He pointed out that the Amman market received 71.4 per cent of the total quantity, followed by Irbid with 22.6 per cent and Zarqa with only 6 per cent of the total quantity.

Jordan to buy American wheat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Supply Ministry has reached an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to buy American wheat and barley from the United States, according to Mustafa Khleifat, secretary general of the Ministry of Supply. Mr. Khleifat, who was commenting on reports that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had refused to sell Jordan 100,000 tonnes of wheat, said that the Supply Ministry Wednesday offered a tender for buying 100,000 tonnes of American wheat and 50,000 tonnes of barley from the USA. He pointed out that there was a difference between the Supply Ministry and the U.S. Department of Agriculture over prices. While the U.S. asked for \$145 per tonne Jordan offered \$140. The U.S. asking price was finally accepted, Mr. Khleifat said.



A women group Thursday stage a sit-in in front of U.N. offices in Amman to demand repatriation of Palestinian evictees (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Women group demands repatriation of evictees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A women group Thursday organised a sit-in in front of the United Nations office in Amman to show solidarity with more than 400 Palestinian expelled by Israel to Lebanon last month, and demanded that the United Nations implement Resolution 799 on their repatriation.

The group, known as the Jerusalem Centre Committee for Human Rights, raised posters demanding a halt of Israeli malpractices against Palestinians and the repatriation of the 415 evictees.

Representatives of the demon-

strators submitted a memorandum to the U.N. office voicing the group's demand, which was signed by hundreds of university professors, scholars, lawyers and other prominent personalities.

The memorandum said that the deportation order contradicted with the 1949 Geneva Convention and violated international law.

"The deportation of the 415 Palestinians was another manifestation of Israel's terrorist actions in the occupied territories," read the memorandum.

After 22 years in Syrian jails

Jordanian activist returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hakem Al Fayed, a former prominent member of the Jordanian branch of the Arab Baath Party Thursday returned home to Jordan after Syrian authorities released him from jail, where he spent 22 years without trial.

On his return to Jordan, Mr. Fayed was given an enthusiastic welcome by relatives and friends. Among them was Samir Habashneh, Secretary General of the National Committee for the Defence of the Jordanian Detainees in Syrian jails.

Mr. Habashneh said Syria still holds many Jordanians without trial, and added that his committee was striving to secure their release. He said that among the prisoners were Dafi Jamaani, Mujalli Nasrawin, Hatem Zurqat, Hassan Al Khatib and Saeed Hatamleh. These and others have been jailed in Syria since 1970, said Mr. Habashneh.

According to Mr. Habashneh the Jordanian members of the Arab Baath Party were reported to have been arrested and imprisoned after they expressed views conflicting with those of Syrian



Hakem Al Fayed, jailed in 1970, is released in 1992.

President Hafez Al Assad at a general conference of the party following the president's assumption of power.

He said none of them had resorted to violence or plotted against Mr. Assad, but only expressed their disagreement with some of the president's ideas.

In a statement quoted by the



The last appeal addressed to the Syrian authorities was late last month during a meeting in Amman by Arab and Jordanian parliamentarians. Mr. Habashneh said many of the detainees suffer from serious illness and ought to be released.

Committee sources said that more than 100 Jordanians are still detained in Syrian jails.

In a meeting with a European delegation, which took up the cause of the Jordanian's last year, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam categorically denied the existence of such detainees in Syria, according to Mr. Habashneh.

Thousands of prisoners were released from Syrian jails under an amnesty declared in Damascus to mark President Assad's re-election early last year, and another pardon was announced in November 1992, but the Jordanians were excluded, said Mr. Habashneh.

Family members told the Jordan Times that Mr. Fayed, 60, will settle down to care for his farms near the town of Um Al Amad, south of Amman.

Self-greening stressed on Arbor Day

Prince Ra'd attends main celebration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein at the main Arbor Day celebration held at Al al Bait University in Mafrqa Thursday, Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid said that the planting of trees can stem desertification, improve the environment and help Jordan attain the goal of greening itself by the year 2000.

Prince Ra'd, who was accompanied by several officials, added that more fruit trees are needed in order to increase food production and ensure food security.

The Prince took part in the planting of olive and forest trees on the grounds of the new university, which is due to open for academic studies at the start of 1994.

Agriculture Minister Fayed Khasawneh, who took part in the ceremony, also urged Jordanians to plant more trees. He stressed that every measure should be taken to prevent the cutting of trees, and laws should be introduced to stop further pollution of forests and the destruction of trees through fires.

Ministry officials at the site said that forests in Jordan cover an area of only 750,000 dunums, which is less than 0.8 per cent of the total area of the country. They said that each year 30,000 forest trees are lost through fires.

The Ministry of Agriculture has produced millions of fruit and forest saplings at its nurseries around the country for planting in various areas of Jordan, and along roads and the periphery of the desert. The ministry is distributing them free of charge to interested individuals and organisations.

According to ministry sources, local organisations and companies are being approached to extend a helping hand to the ministry in planting millions of



Prince Ra'd plants an olive tree on Arbor Day (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

trees in various areas of Jordan to help in the self-greening effort.

The officials said that agreement was reached with 50 Jordanian companies and institutions to help the ministry plant trees on 150,000 dunums of land by the year 2000.

U.S. seen to prompt Israeli accord

(Continued from page 1)

issue Wednesday during a meeting in Paris with Mr. Peres and he has written three times on the subject to Prime Minister Rabin.

The Palestinian evictees welcomed the U.S. warning to Israel to resolve their plight or face growing U.N. pressure.

But many of the 413 men stranded in South Lebanon said they doubted Israel would take them back soon.

The evictees began their fifth week in exile at a makeshift tent camp amid shortages of food, fuel and medicine.

Mr. Eagleburger's comments "surprised me and cheered me up," said evictee Ali Daou, a merchant from the West Bank. "It seems to be a remarkable change by the Americans, but of

course we are afraid it may just be words because he is leaving power."

Mr. Eagleburger expressed confidence that the administration of President George Bush could forestall U.N. sanctions during its last week in office but made no predictions about what would happen after Jan. 20, when Bill Clinton is sworn in.

The evictees were also not confident the latest U.S. stand would be enough to convince Israel.

"Rabin is a stubborn man," Mr. Daou said. "He has changed in the past but this may have reached the stage where it could topple his government if he backs down."

Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, a leader of the evictees, said the latest U.S. stand was positive and "the result of a good knowledge of the background of the expulsions."

3 killed in Gaza in 2 days

(Continued from page 1)

A friend of Dahdoun, who asked not to be identified, said he was active in the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement and he had sworn to avenge the expulsion of 415 Palestinians on Dec. 17. He had been jailed twice by Israel.

It was the first attack on Israeli civilians since Israel expelled the Palestinians, saying they belonged to Islamic Jihad and the larger Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. The expulsions have been widely condemned.

Many of the deportees, who are still stranded in a freezing strip between Israeli and Lebanese lines, were from the occupied Gaza Strip.

In Beirut, the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine group claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement issued in Beirut, the group said:

"In revenge for the Zionist enemy's heinous crime of expelling the strugglers... and within the context of our nation's continuous struggle against this enemy, one of our strugglers stabbed four invading settlers at the central station in Tel Aviv."

In Marj Al Zuhour, Lebanon, Islamic Jihad members among the Palestinian evictees praised Friday's stabbing saying it would make the Israelis "feel our pain."

"When the Israelis (expel) us, attack us and kick us out, the only way to fight is through this way... to let them feel the pain of our people and families," said Abdul-

lah Al Shami, head of the Islamic Jihad members among evictees. "The Israelis now cry for their people but we have been crying for our people for 40 years."

He said his group's primary targets were Israeli soldiers "who are killing our people, but when we can't hit the military, we should let the Israelis feel our pain."

125 states sign chemical treaty

(Continued from page 1)

years of ratification, with a five-year extension for nations lacking financial or technical means to meet the deadline.

The treaty, to be administered under United Nations auspices by an international secretariat at the Hague, will take effect after 65 nations ratify it, but no sooner than 1995.

The verification measures are considered unprecedented. Arms control experts hope they can be applied to a pact to ban biological weapons.

Syria Friday criticised Western

and Israeli efforts to persuade the Arabs to sign the treaty while ignoring Israel's nuclear arsenal.

The Al Thawra daily accused them of trying to enforce a unilateral disarmament process in the Middle East by "disarming the Arabs and depriving them of any deterrent means for self-defence."

The Arab League, decided in September to reject the treaty because Israel refuses to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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Discounts offered for early tax payment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Income Tax Department officials have just completed the distribution of the 1992 income tax forms to various organisations and businesses and said that a six per cent discount will be offered to organisations that pay their taxes in full in January.

A four per cent discount will be offered to those that pay in February; and a two per cent cut for those paying in March.

After May 1993, officials said, those failing to submit a full statement on their 1992 income will be subject to a two per cent fine each month they are late.

Department Director Mansour Haddadin said in a statement on Jan. 4 that his department expects to collect JD 120 million in

1993 from taxpayers. The department said its income tax revenue for 1992 amounted to JD 110 million — an increase of 18.5 per cent over the 1991 collections.

Officials said the department was submitting the completed forms as soon as possible, in order to benefit from the discounts offered and to avoid paying fines.

They said that taxpayers wishing to enquire about any matters related to the payment of taxes should call tel. 685613 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

UNDP hopes to increase aid to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Uthman Hashem Friday said contacts were underway with the U.N. headquarters to increase technical and economic aid to Jordan to levels commensurate with the Kingdom's economic and social needs and development programmes it is implementing.

Dr. Hashem told a symposium on the environment that the UNDP office in Amman had increased its allocations for Jordan through the adoption of new programmes not falling within its 5th \$7.5 million national development programme. He said that more than \$6 million were allocated for environmental projects to be carried out over three years.

He cited the restoration of Azraq oasis as one of the most

important programmes to be carried out with support from the UNDP.

Further economic and social assistance is sought to help address other areas, such as poverty, working women, population and the improvement of technical performance. Contacts are under way with the U.N. headquarters to secure funds for such projects.

The symposium was organised by the UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning. Dr. Hashem voiced hope that participants at the symposium will constitute the nucleus for work in environmental field. He pointed out that the symposium was one of a series of symposia on the environment, which will be held in 140 countries throughout the world.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

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Clinton — relations depend on Saddam's behaviour

By Dian McDonald

WASHINGTON — President-elect Bill Clinton says a different U.S.-Iraqi relationship might be possible during his administration if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein changes his behaviour and complies fully with U.N. Security Council requirements for the Gulf war ceasefire — but he also says that, based on the Iraqi leader's record, he is highly sceptical of any change.

At a news conference on Jan. 14, Mr. Clinton emphasised there is no difference between his policy on Iraq and that of the Bush administration and said he has no intention of "normalising" relations with Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Clinton strongly rejected a reporter's suggestion, based on an interview with the president-elect in that day's New York Times, that he could foresee "normal" ties with the Iraqi leader if the latter abides by U.N. resolutions.

"I was asked whether the world could live with Saddam Hussein in Iraq. I said what I have said many times — that I will judge him by his conduct," Mr. Clinton said. "That is precisely what the Bush administration has done. They have said, 'We cannot normalise relations with Iraq as long as he's there.' But they haven't bombed him every day. They decided to bomb him because he violated the U.N. ceasefire accords. That is my position. I will evaluate what I do based on his conduct. I have no intention of normalising relations with him."

Asked if he could foresee circumstances with Saddam Hussein in power where his administration might normalise, or even upgrade, relations with Baghdad, Mr. Clinton replied: "Based on his own conduct, I cannot imagine such circumstances."

In the interview with the New York Times, Mr. Clinton indicated that he is ready for a different relationship with Saddam Hussein, but he warned the Iraqi leader not to doubt his resolve to see full compliance with U.N. resolutions.

The president-elect said that if Saddam Hussein were seated

next to him, he would tell him: "If you want a different relationship with me, you can begin by observing the U.N. requirements, and change your behaviour."

Mr. Clinton also said in the interview that while he is "not obsessed" with Saddam Hussein, he is obsessed with the standards of conduct embodied in those U.N. accords, and if he were sitting on the couch, I would urge him to change his behaviour."

The president-elect cited his support for President Bush's decision to launch an air strike against Iraqi targets, Jan. 13, saying: "It was the right thing to do." But Mr. Clinton also said he believed that "a couple of times over the last year and a half we have sent mixed signals" to Iraq.

Mr. Clinton said he wants to see what Saddam Hussein does in response to the allied military mission, adding: "We'll see what happens over the next several days and we'll take it from there."

Mr. Clinton said he would not rule out any type of military action in the future, including renewal of the ground war against Iraq if necessary to force compliance with U.N. resolutions.

He emphasised that the "main thing we can't do anything to give him or anyone else the slightest indication that we are wavering."

Mr. Clinton said that "based on the evidence that we have, the people of Iraq would be better off if they had a different leader."

However, "my job is not to pick their rulers for them," he added. "I always tell everybody, 'I'm a Baptist: I believe in deathbed conversions.' If he wants a different relationship with the United States and with the United Nations, all he has to do is change his behaviour."

If Saddam Hussein spent "just a half, maybe even a third, of the time worrying about the welfare of his people, that he spends worrying about where he positions his SAM (surface-to-air) missiles and whether he can aggravate Bush by violating the ceasefire agreement...I think he

would be a stronger leader and in a lot better shape over the long run," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton warned Saddam Hussein not to attempt to take advantage of him or underestimate his commitment to ensure full compliance with U.N. resolutions. As president, Mr. Clinton said: "I expect...I'll be tested in a lot of ways by a lot of people, at home and abroad. And part of my job is to meet the test...I am not going to abandon the oath of

Nuremberg-style war crimes tribunal to bring to justice those who have perpetrated crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia. And "there may be other things we can do," Mr. Clinton said. "I don't want to foreclose my options by discussing them before I make a decision."

Regarding Somalia, Mr. Clinton said he had never believed that American forces would be out of Somalia by Jan. 20, as the

Excerpted quotes on Iraq and Saddam Hussein from President-elect Bill Clinton's New York Times interview, Jan. 13, 1993.

Quote: "I am going to judge you by your behaviour. I am not going to sit around trying to figure out what is motivating you. If you want a different relationship with me, you can begin by observing the U.N. requirements, and change your behaviour."

Quote: "I am not obsessed with the man. But I am obsessed with the standards of conduct embodied in those U.N. accords, and if he were sitting on the couch, I would urge him to change his behaviour."

Quote: "Certainly based on the evidence we have, the people of Iraq would be better off if they had a different ruler, but my job is not to pick their

rulers for them. If he wants a different relationship with the United States and the United Nations, all he has to do is change his behaviour. The issue here is not personalities, except in so far as that impacts on behaviour."

Quote: "We cannot do anything to give him or anyone else the slightest indication that we are wavering. I would not rule out anything, except to say that I have no intention of seeing our nation back away from the adherence to the guidelines. I would not rule out any of my options in the future, but I want to see what he does in response to this mission."

office, and I'm not going to abandon my position and my convictions. This is a United Nations effort in which there is strong solidarity...We can't afford to let this endeavour disintegrate and dissipate because the United States has a lack of resolve."

Commenting on other foreign policy issues, Mr. Clinton urged a strong western response to the "ethnic cleansing" campaign under way in Bosnia-Herzegovina, warning that the Bosnian conflict has "potential ramifications" in central Europe and in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Bush administration had initially hoped. But he underscored his commitment to the international humanitarian mission to safeguard delivery of supplies to the nation's starving people.

Mr. Clinton said he did not know how long U.S. forces would remain in Somalia. "I think they'll be there several weeks though," he said, "and I think what we have to work out is a peacekeeping force that's multinational, that's smaller, and where we're in a support role, maybe even offshore. I still think that the general outline of the mission can be accomplished. I have no reason to believe it

can't."

Congress backs attacks

Key members of Congress from both political parties hailed the decision of western leaders to order air strikes against Iraqi forces in the "no-fly" zone established by the U.N. Security Council.

U.S. lawmakers agreed on Jan. 13 and 14 that air strikes ordered by President Bush and other coalition leaders were an appropriate response both to what they saw as repeated provocations by Baghdad that endangered coalition aircraft monitoring the no-fly zone and as a warning against any further violations of the Kuwait border.

They also warned Baghdad to expect full support for the president by President-elect Clinton and no change of policy once Mr. Clinton assumes the presidency. Republican Senator William Cohen who is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee asserted that the moderate extent of the strikes was "not enough to build sympathy for Saddam Hussein." But he added that bombing too heavily risks "doing exactly what perhaps Hussein wants, and that is to build support and sympathy within the Arab community. Right now I think he's without that to any significant degree."

In the House of Representatives, Democratic leader Richard Gephardt said that "democrats and Republicans, the Bush administration and the (incoming) Clinton administration, will not tolerate violations of the U.N. resolutions by Saddam. The U.N. resolutions will be enforced."

"I commend President Bush and President-elect Clinton on their clear and united handling of this critical situation," he said.

Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton is the new chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He termed the air strikes "a gesture of determination" that the United States and its allies "are very serious about getting Saddam Hussein to comply with the U.N. resolutions."

"We, of course, would like him

to comply without the use of force, but he has been engaged in an escalating pattern of non-compliance and in the past week or two he really has had extraordinary conduct. He just has been thumbing his nose at us and doing everything he can, apparently, to violate his obligations under the U.N. resolutions," Mr. Hamilton declared.

The international community, Mr. Hamilton said, "is engaged in a process of gradually escalating the pressure until we think he gets the message." Mr. Hamilton said Saddam Hussein is taking advantage "of the ambiguity of power during this transition of power" in Washington.

Mr. Hamilton said he sees no difference between President-elect Clinton's policy towards Iraq and that of President Bush. "I think Clinton will pursue the same kind of a policy," he said, predicting that Saddam Hussein "will begin to test and probe and challenge Bill Clinton at some point."

Mr. Hamilton said, "I think we are in this for a while. This is not one of these contests that is going to be resolved in a day, a month, or two or three months."

Congressman Dan Glickman is the new chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He said that Saddam Hussein's actions are "very hard to figure out because he knows the military odds are against him. I think he probably did it to kind of rile up his troops and perhaps to engender some support in the Arab World. He knows that militarily there's no way he could cope with the allied forces. He is very difficult to understand, rationally," Mr. Glickman said. "I think he should know, if he doesn't know, that the Clinton administration is going to pursue the same tough line as the Bush administration, and testing Mr. Clinton will not do him any good. 'I think he's going to back down for a while but I think he's going to continue to test us and I think if he continues to test us, we'll continue with appropriate response. Mr. Glickman predicted — United States Information Agency.

Cycle of irrationality

IRAQ AND certain Western capitals appear to be locked in a cycle of irrationality, with each side trying its best to outbid the other in executing a string of self-defeating actions and reactions. It is hard to tell when this vicious circle will end, but one thing is clear: The Iraqi people are always the principal victims of this seemingly endless cycle of overreactions to ill-conceived and poorly executed policies. The last episode in this most unfortunate setting culminated in the execution of inconsequential but ill-advised Iraqi measures that precipitated an overly orchestrated response from Washington and its closest allies. When over 100 warplanes take off from several staging centres in the Gulf region to wage yet another attack on the beleaguered and bleeding Iraq, it amounts to an overkill perpetrated on a state driven to desperation.

Against the backdrop of the Gulf war two years ago, more is expected from the West than from Iraq. Two years have passed since that war, but Iraq continues to be treated like a pariah, with nothing to show for its acceptance of virtually every humiliating U.N. resolution imposed upon it by some of the Western and Arab countries. No nation that lost a war in the past had been denied rehabilitation for so long. The irrational fixation by the West in particular on Baghdad and its leadership has driven Baghdad and its regime to near desperation and political confusion. That under normal circumstances will be hard to comprehend much less to sympathise with. For all intents and purposes, President Bush is the proximate cause of the state of Iraq. U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton have halfheartedly supported Bush in this instance, but he has yet to demonstrate how his presidency may offer a fresh start for Iraq and its people, based on common sense and justice for all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESCRIBING THE American-led aggression on Iraq Wednesday as barbaric, Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that the Western countries had prepared for a new aggression long before the missiles crisis cropped up. The daily said that although there are no international regulations that give Mr. Bush and his allies the right to attack other nations, the Iraqi territory was once again the ground for new barbaric attacks and brutal killing of innocent people. While the Americans and their allies give themselves the right to attack other nations at will, under the pretext of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions, they are doing nothing to implement resolutions concerning the Palestine question and Israel's rejection of all Security Council resolutions, said the daily. The American administration, which has been handling world issues with double standards, has proved it works against human rights and that it has no regard for any international regulations and laws, the paper continued. It said that the Jordanians strongly condemn this barbaric aggression and urge the honest and true Arabs to support their Iraqi kinsmen in the face of the new atrocity committed by the colonialist nations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on the current rumours about possible delay, for one or two years of the parliamentary elections which are scheduled for November this year. Some people think that delaying the elections would give the young parties the chance and the time to organise themselves and build a base on which to wage the coming battle, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that one or two years will not be enough for the organisation and strengthening of the parties; therefore, it is advisable for the country to hold elections on schedule and leave the political parties the chance to benefit from the coming battle for the future ones. The writer also called on the government to allocate up to JD 1 million to finance the political parties' election campaigns, a practice similar to other nations. It is unreasonable to see an individual spending thousands out of his own pocket to finance his election campaign; and the new political parties are not expected to do as well in the coming elections as the Muslim Brotherhood which enjoys a strong, popular base, said the writer. He said that by financing the political parties' campaign, the government will be offering each one an equal chance to win. It is reasonable to say that such a practice must be done since the country is in need of the best representatives of the people to rule and help the government run the Kingdom's affairs, said the writer. Spending on parties' campaigns, he added, is like spending on public services, like roads electricity and water for which millions are allocated each year.

Double standards in the new world order

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE JORDANIAN press last week gave prominence to the western attack on Iraq, the continued ordeal of the Palestinian evictees and a host of domestic issues.

In tackling the new attack on Iraq, Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that the western alliance's aggression on the Iraqi people did not stop ever since the imposition of the U.N. Security Council sanctions on the Arab state.

Starving of human beings, besieging the sick and the children, and finally attacking with sophisticated weapons can only represent the worst, barbaric action perpetrated and executed by the U.S.-led alliance, said the paper. The attack on Wednesday, said the paper, came only to reaffirm a fact and to present the aggression in a new form.

If the world community wants Iraq to adhere to word and spirit to the U.N. Security Council resolutions, it should stop America's continued aggression or threats of aggression on the Iraqi people, demanded Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i.

The writer said that the Iraqis have opened their country for inspection, allowed the inspectors to destroy their weapons and are abiding by the U.N. resolutions. So America's escalation of the missiles question was only an excuse to wage another aggression on the Iraqi people.

The American-led campaign against Iraq is clearly intended to cover up for Israel's deportation of the 415 Palestinians to Lebanon, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Sultan Al Hattab said that by attacking Iraq and showing the world that it was allegedly defying the world community, Washington is trying to divert world public attention from the

Israeli crime, committed a month ago, against the innocent civilian population of Palestine.

The U.S. aggression on Iraq is not confined to President Bush, said Fakhr Saleh, a columnist in Al Dustour. There are indications that Bill Clinton would pursue the same aggressive policies against the Arab country because he wants to show that he understands foreign, as well as domestic politics, and can handle both at the same time, said the writer.

Until Mr. Clinton has had the time to mature politically, the Arabs are bound to witness more of the same Bush policies being implemented under the Clinton administration, said the writer.

Bader Abdul Haq, a columnist in Al Ra'i, described Mr. Bush, Mr. Major, Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Yeltsin as a gang of criminals holding knives and attacking the Iraqi people who fell victim to colonial power plots. The writer said that these four leaders, representing colonial powers, are known to be experts in fabricating accusations, forging facts and filling the world with falsehoods about Iraq so as to pave the ground for aggression on its people.

Taber Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the United States, Britain and France are enemies of the Arab Nation. This is a fact, although the Arabs seem to be in need of Washington and the European Community to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the writer. But he said that the Americans and the Europeans are doing nothing to bring justice to the Middle East, are exploiting the Arab Nation's weakness, by executing their evil plots against Iraq, and are pillaging Arab oil wealth at

will.

He said that one thing the weak Arabs can do is to end their sanctions against the Israeli people and about the colonial powers' conspiracies.

Tareq Masarweh blamed the Arab oil wealth for the continued aggression on the Arab Nation. The columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that the colonial powers are constantly looting Arab wealth and they are allowed to do so by the Arab sheikhs who want the western powers to deal a devastating blow to Iraq and prevent its leaders from protecting the nation's interests.

The writer said that Iraq could be exposed to more aggressions, but all this can only bring up the date for the all out explosion in the region.

Dr. Samir Qitami, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, bitterly attacked the United States for its actions at a time when it continues to condone Israel's flouting of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The writer said that as soon as the ordeal of the Palestinian evictees started to draw world public attention, the Americans and their allies started thinking of ways and means of diverting this attention to something else that can only serve Israel's interests.

The western powers, who are keeping their eyes closed and are turning their attention away from Israel's atrocities, are keeping their eyes wide open hunting for any excuse to humiliate the Arab and Islamic nations.

With reference to the ongoing ordeal of the Palestinian deportees, Al Ra'i criticised the United States which recently announced that it would veto any U.N. Security Council resolution that would force Israel to comply with Resolution 799.

Washington, said the paper, has thus provided yet another evidence of its disregard of all U.N. resolutions and Charter and proved that it adheres to protecting Israel's interests at any expense. The paper said that the Arabs should give up hope of ever reaching peace with Israel through the help of its American ally.

Referring to the Cairo meeting by Arab foreign ministers, Mohammad Kharroub, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that there is no doubt that the Arabs met at a crucial stage in their history and at a time when their people are facing serious circumstances and the Israelis are pursuing their atrocities. But the writer said that the Arab masses are waiting for the next step, one which can give real hope to them in the future.

Tareq Masarweh, in Al Ra'i, said it is true that the Arab countries have now met to discuss the evictees' question, but he noted that while many of them are ready to condemn Israel's actions they are not ready to take practical steps to deal with the situation.

It is regrettable, said the writer, to see the Palestinians enduring cold and hunger while many nations continue to help Israel to escape punishment.

Taber Al Udwan said in Al Dustour that the Arab masses want to see measures and practical steps taken to repatriate the evictees and not mere verbal condemnation of Israel's actions. The writer said that everyone realises that Israel's actions are obstructing the peace process and fore everyone ought to do something to facilitate the peace process and halt Israel's practices.

It is regrettable that some Arab countries attended the

Cairo meeting because they had to, but in secret they blamed Lebanon for refusing to take the Palestinians, said the writer. Mere condemnation of the Israeli practices, he said, can never repatriate the evicted Palestinians.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, expressed his belief that Hamas, is the victim of the "transfer" conspiracy which Israel, backed by the West, is now implementing in this region.

Arab masses appreciate Lebanon's courageous stand, which has helped expose the evil image of Israel to the world, although the Hamas people continue to suffer at the moment, he said. The writer said that Lebanon and the other Arabs should stem and kill in the bud Israel's new policy of emptying Palestine of its people.

By deporting the 415 Palestinians and refusing to take them back, Israel has played into the hands of Hamas and blocked the way before the PLO to send its delegation to the peace talks, said Mohammad Kawash.

The writer, who writes in Al Dustour, said that by rejecting the U.N. Security Council resolution, Israel has exposed itself to world public criticism and complicated matters for the peace negotiators. He said there can be no peace talks with the Rabin government until and unless it changes its position and takes back the deported men.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that some people are exploiting the atmosphere of democracy and trying to show that they can do what they want with the firearms they have at home. Indeed, the security authorities did well to ban people from carrying

weapons so as to better safeguard security in the country, Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud said. He said that actually the new regulations issued by the Ministry of Interior are bound to enhance democracy.

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised a deputy in Parliament who strongly attacked the application of the International Monetary Fund agreement with Jordan on the restructuring of the national economy. Fahed Al Fanek said that the Deputy Hamman Saad, did not believe that the agreement helped Jordan make surplus of JD144 million and cover the current expenses through domestic revenues, noting that this is a fact and one that helped the government regain self-confidence and embark on similar measures for 1993.

The writer criticised the deputy for calling on the government to distribute JD140 for each unemployed person, to stem poverty, noting that the treasury can not afford that and it would go bankrupt.

Khaled Mahadin, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the United States, which has prevented the Arab countries from conducting an Arab-Arab dialogue during the Gulf crisis, has succeeded now in preventing the European from reaching a successful dialogue in solving the former Yugoslavia question. The writer said that the Europeans realise this fact and are afraid to denounce America's policies. Now that Washington is the sole superpower, it is behaving in a manner that is considered an insult to the nations of the world. It is regrettable, said the writer, that none of the permanent U.N. Security Council members can stand up to Washington and say no.

Uneasy America awaits start of Clinton era

By Deborah Zabarenko Reuter

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton's presidency will begin with the United States the unchanged leader of the world for the first time in its history.

Yet many Americans are uneasy about their country's new role.

From the man in the street to outgoing Secretary of State Law-

ence Eagleburger, many Americans are looking on the new world order as a distinctly mixed blessing.

"I have a confession to make to you: I am now truly nostalgic for the cold war," Mr. Eagleburger said this month.

During the past 50 years the United States played by the rules of two-power diplomacy. It helped any country that was an enemy of Soviet communism.

But the demise of Soviet communism left President George Bush without a convenient formula for foreign intervention.

"Anyone looking for scientific certitude is in for a disappointment," Mr. Bush said this month.

"In the complex new world we are entering, there can be no single or simple set of fixed rules for using force."

Mr. Bush's comments had added resonance, with U.S.

troops deployed on a relief mission in Somalia, U.S. jets keeping watch over the U.N.-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq and almost daily calls for U.S. military involvement in former Yugoslavia.

President-elect Bill Clinton, whose politics were forged in the rebellious anti-war 1960s, has said his policies on Iraq and Somalia will be in line with the Bush administration.

But if political polls taken during Mr. Clinton's campaign are any guide, Americans are searching anxiously for some domestic benefits to winning the cold war — and not finding many.

"I think there is a national sense of unease and concern and worry and it manifested itself in the election," Princeton University historian James McPherson told Reuters.

"I think people did vote for a

change in direction, some sense that we have serious problems in the country that nobody seems to be doing anything about."

Mr. Clinton capitalised on domestic concerns during the campaign.

But as leader of the most powerful country on earth, Mr. Clinton may face foreign problems that push his domestic agenda out of the way.

Crown Prince: Raid unproportionate

(Continued from page 1)

much more active role in the whole package of human rights, including economic and social rights. But I want to make it plain clear that double standard refers to the fact that the man in the street feels effectively that there is not a serious U.N. position on the other issues. Whereas immediate action is taken on any American impulse effectively — during the last days of the Bush administration — to correct an Iraqi position which leads us to a tremendous legacy of bitterness.

On the new deployment of U.S. troops in Kuwait, he said: "Does it fit into proportionate self defence? I don't know what effectively their presence there will do for the future of that immediate region. After all the Gulf summit recently focused on self-defence of the Gulf states. When will they effectively be able to defend themselves."

Asked whether the U.N. had any justification whatsoever on the raid on Iraq, he said: "I think that in terms of the secretary-general's statement, yes, they are really acting within U.N. resolutions. However, there is a grey area: How far do you take that resolution? You bomb the infrastructure, you bomb anything."

"And indeed after all the U.N. is responsible also for the plight of the Iraqi people. Today we are told \$385 million are still to be agreed upon by U.N. agencies to alleviate the plight of the people of southern Iraq. We are still talking about 46,000 children dead and we are talking about continued undiluted misery forced on the people of Iraq."

Asked whether the region was closer to Iraqi compliance after the new raid or to a greater conflict, the Crown Prince said: "I think that the likelihood of greater intransigence is very much there."

On the plight of the more than 400 Palestinian evictees stranded in South Lebanon and the peace process, he said: "I think that we need to stock-taking of the whole peace process, particularly in the first two months of the new administration in the U.S. We don't want to be marginalised and as far as the issue is of course concerned the deportees is an important issue

which has to be attended to — the humanitarian issue ... (and) the political one — but let us look at the whole ... but the bilateral talks and say effectively and say whether these packages — whether of human rights, refugees, Jerusalem, the cultural and human issues — need to be attended to. And we don't have much time, particularly with the mood changing in the region."

Asked whether he believed the peace process was alive, he said: "It is a miracle that it survived so far and that why I think we need more attention from the sponsors."

In Amman, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has said that the allies air strike on Iraq Wednesday "can only appear as double-standards in the application of United Nations Security Council resolutions."

"Arab and Muslim frustration is furthered by the lack of equal U.N. determination to secure the implementation of such resolutions as evidenced by the case of Israel's expulsion of over 400 Palestinians from their homeland and ... the refusal of the Israeli government to heed Security Council resolutions for the return of the expelled Palestinians," Sharif Zeid said in a statement Thursday.

He said the perception of double-standards in the application of international law "can only be increased in light of the ongoing and as yet unchecked genocide being perpetrated against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The prime minister said the use of force since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis has only served to fragment and devastate the Arab World, bringing great suffering to the peoples of Iraq and other Arab states within the immediate area of the conflict.

He said that Jordan, which consistently sought the resolution of the Gulf crisis through peaceful means, received with "great regret and comprehension" the news of the strike against Iraq. Sharif Zeid said the renewal of military operations and the threat of their future continuation in place of dialogue and diplomacy can only heighten the deep disappointment and growing anger felt by all Arabs and Muslims.

U.S. and Iraq on collision course

(Continued from page 1)

on the meeting. But earlier Friday, Iraq's Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun said his government would inform U.N. inspectors that they can resume their flights into Iraq "on schedule."

But the spokesman for the U.N. special commission set up to monitor elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction said that as of 1 p.m. (1700 GMT) Friday he still had not heard anything officially from the Iraqis.

"It's too late for today," Tim Trevan said Friday. "We're set back 24 hours. Tomorrow would be a good bet."

Last week, Baghdad barred U.N. weapons inspectors from flying into Iraq in their own planes, saying that it wanted them to charter grounded Iraqi Airways planes rather than foreign ones.

The Security Council rejected Iraq's position as an unacceptable breach of the Gulf war ceasefire agreement, which gives the inspectors free rein to search for weapons of mass destruction and destroy them.

There were other signs of heightened tensions in an area of the world that has engaged Mr. Bush for much of his term in office, which ends next Wednesday.

The first batch of U.S. troop reinforcements arrived at Friday in Kuwait, deployed by Mr. Bush after Wednesday's bombing raid in order to prevent any Iraqi incursions.

The first contingent of up to 1,100 soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, landed at Kuwait's international airport. About 300 special force members are already in Kuwait assisting the Kuwaiti military.

The first 350 soldiers from the Texas base arrived Friday afternoon and three air force C-10s were flying in about 650 others.

American officials have indicated they might well strike again if Iraq does not submit to United Nations and United States demands.

The West has been angered in the past month by Iraqi flights into a "no-fly" zone in the south, by the halting of U.N. flights, by Iraqi salvage operations which intruded into a disputed area with Kuwait, by delay in dismantling Iraqi border posts, and by missile movements which seemed to threaten patrolling western aircraft.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney warned Friday that another air strike was "entirely possible."

Mr. Cheney said he hoped another it would not be necessary but that Iraq should not forget the U.S. resolve.

"We are prepared to do it again if we have to," he said.

Iraq reported Thursday that its ground defences had chased off two Western warplanes in the "no-fly" zone in the north of the country.

Friday's encounter, the spokesman said, took place at 4.30 p.m. (1330 GMT) close to the southern city of Basra deep inside the air exclusion zone.

Iraq views the "no-fly" zones, established in the north ostensibly to protect Kurds, and in the south to shield dissident Shiites from attack, as an infringement on its sovereignty.

Time runs out on Algeria's year of turmoil

By John Baggaley
Reuters

ALGIERS — One year on from President Chadli Benjedid's shock resignation, Algeria has pulled back from the brink of civil war and kept feebly flickering the spark of democracy diplomats say.

But the army-backed authorities still face a credibility crisis and a crippling \$25 billion foreign debt.

Free elections remain a distant dream. And diplomats see little sign of "radical change" which the authorities acknowledge most of the nation's 26 million people yearn for.

A year-long state of emergency is due to expire on February 9. The opposition wants it lifted. "In the short term, that is for the month ahead, I do not see any possibilities of return to the ballot box," said Sadi, secretary-general of the Assembly for Culture and Democracy, had said in an interview.

His party is one of the more credible of some 60 which mushroomed after Chadli Benjedid, following poverty riots in October 1988, ended nearly 30 years of a one-party state.

But the main opposition, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was set to win the election last January, is outlawed. The election scrapped, and the 3.5 million people who voted for it are without a voice.

FIS extremists are blamed for killing more than 210 members of the security force last year. Forty-eight men have been condemned to death for terrorism and a decision on whether to go ahead with their executions must be taken.

Fundamentalist views have effectively vanished from a press fearful of a tough new law which promises jail of up to 10 years for "apologising" for terrorism. "It is all rather depressing compared to the excitement of just over a year ago," said one European diplomat.

Chadli Benjedid was forced out last January 11 by military and other officials angry at his apparent willingness to accept a Muslim fundamentalist party dominating parliament, diplomats say.

Diplomats' forecasts for the future are uniformly cautious, largely pessimistic for the political and economic short and medium term. For the long term, they are more sanguine on the economy but say the political outlook remains blurred.

"I think for some time to come, the authorities and military will exert enough physical pressure to stay in power," said one western diplomat. "But I can't see a proper programme to win support of the critical mass of the population."

Daily realities are harsh for many people, some of whom look back on the era of President Houari Boumedienne with nostalgia, despite pervasive state control of all aspects of life.

Algeria has over 30 per cent inflation, an acknowledged seven

million poor, unemployment at one in five of the workforce, chronic shortages of housing and even basic medicines.

Prime Minister Belaid Abdeslam has promised three years of austerity ahead.

Some hint of the political future may come on January 14. Head of state Ali Kafi is due to give his "perspectives" then, marking the first anniversary of the collective presidency which took over from Chadli Benjedid.

Diplomats speculate he may announce constitutional changes — to be endorsed by a referendum before the end of the year when the presidency's mandate is due to expire.

"They need to change the con-

stitution now even to hold presidential elections," said a European diplomat.

One parliamentary change apparently being mooted, he said, was a lower house elected by proportional representation and an appointed upper house with powers of veto.

Another senior diplomat said suspensions of newspapers, charges against journalists, and impending censorship on reporting security matters boded ill for a democratic future.

But another said: "Algeria's press is still freer than most Arab countries and there are still the remnants of a political opposition. But I can see the screws tightened. They seem to want to

go back to Boumedienneism." Oil industry sources and diplomats say Algeria has not attracted the billions of dollars it sought from foreign firms in return for partnership in enhanced recovery programmes at existing fields and shares in profits.

But gas exports, now earning over \$3 billion a year, are set to double soon, and 24 exploration contracts have been signed, despite unrest, with foreign firms to seek more oil and gas.

"Exploration agreements are going ahead. But it will take time, maybe two to three years for more discoveries, then another three to four to exploit them. So you are talking about seven to 10 years," said one diplomat.

Soviet A-bomb designers: First bomb was copy of U.S. weapon

By Sergei Shargorodsky
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The designers of the first Soviet atomic bomb have admitted it was an exact copy of a U.S. weapon and that they had hundreds of pages of spy information at their disposal.

At the time, Soviet scientists were convinced they could be subjected to U.S. nuclear bombardment and feared dictator Josef Stalin's wrath if they failed to develop the bomb, physicists Yuri Khariton and Yuri Smirnov said.

However, Mr. Khariton, the bomb's chief constructor, cautioned that "we must not exaggerate the role" of plain brain power in developing the Soviet bomb.

"Previous work by Soviet scientists had provided strong starting positions when they began to solve the atomic problem," he said in a joint paper with Mr. Smirnov.

The two spoke at Moscow's leading nuclear research centre, the Kurchatov Institute, on the 90th anniversary of the birth of its founder, Igor Kurchatov. He supervised the Soviet nuclear programme from 1943 until his death in 1960.

The gathering revealed the extent to which the Soviet Union

depended on espionage early in the atomic age.

"Intelligence brought extensive information from the United States. Kurchatov was given special rooms at the 'big house' on Lubyanka Square (secret police headquarters) and in the Kremlin, where he spent many hours reading these materials," said Igor Golovin, Kurchatov's colleague and biographer.

Mr. Khariton and Mr. Smirnov said that when Kurchatov was appointed head of the nuclear weapons programme in March 1943, he wrote two memorandums "comparing the results achieved by the Soviet scientists with intelligence information."

In the memos, recently declassified, Kurchatov said: "It was very important for us to learn" that western scientists had confirmed Soviet findings on spontaneous fission of uranium — a key finding in atomic bomb design.

But Kurchatov also doubted some western results, fearing they might be "an invention meant to disorient our science."

Intelligence information also yielded the notion of using plutonium to build a nuclear bomb, the documents showed.

In September 1944, Kurchatov wrote to Lavrenti Beria, Stalin's secret police chief, to complain

about the slow pace of Soviet work compared with the vast scope of the western project — on which he had read "new and quite extensive, 300-page materials," Mr. Golovin said.

In the second half of 1945, Soviet scientists obtained "a very detailed scheme and description of the first American nuclear bomb, provided by intelligence and (nuclear spy) Klaus Fuchs," Mr. Khariton and Mr. Smirnov said.

The data were studied at Arzamas-16, a secret research centre in central Russia.

"When specialists at Arzamas-16 came to the conclusion that the information was reliable ... it was decided that for the first explosion, we would use the well-tried and tested American design," Mr. Khariton and Mr. Smirnov said.

"The scientists knew they were responsible for the success of the first test, where there could be no mistakes. Any other decision would have been unacceptable."

Shortly before the test, successfully conducted on Aug. 29, 1949, Stalin summoned the nuclear project leaders.

Mr. Khariton recalled that Stalin asked him whether the Soviet Union had enough plutonium to make two smaller nuclear bombs, "so one could be kept in store."

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Princess Haya announces formation of JIAL

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Thursday announced the formation of the Jordanian International Athletics League (JIAL), an association long sought by members of the Kingdom's various national teams.

The League will mainly deal with the social aspect of athletes' lives. "We intend to have a close coordination-supervision relationship with the athletes concerned," said Murad Barakat, founding member of the JIAL which will also take an active interest in the long-neglected women's sports.

At a press conference held at the Orthodox Club, Princess Haya outlined the role and objectives of the JIAL as well as the activities and membership rules of the League which will include athletes who have been members of the country's national teams since 1978.

Basketball star Barakat said JIAL rules stipulate that an athlete is eligible for the League's membership if he or she has been a member of a national team for a minimum of five years and has represented the country in at least one regional or international competition.

Barakat said the League will not accept any player who has been suspended for period exceeding six months, emphasising



ing the League's concern with players' conduct and sportsmanship.

Princess Haya told reporters that "the League was a long overdue necessity that would unite athletes and seek their rights."

"Everyone has lots of demands and expectations of members of our national teams. Now it is time that athletes have a voice to raise their demands and seek their social, cultural and athletic advancement."

Barakat added that the JIAL's motto will be "towards

"We hope to benefit from the experience of senior and retired athletes. We also hope the League will foster a strong bond between all athletes and all concerned institutions," he added.

Princess Haya pointed out that the JIAL will also sponsor a national teams' fan club which proved to be an "important factor in the Seventh Pan-Arab Games in Syria last summer."

Princess Haya said the Amman Municipality has generously approved the use of their club as a temporary headquarters for the JIAL, but added that the League will soon have its own headquarters.

In order to secure proper funding, the JIAL will organise different social and cultural activities.

The press questioned the 5 year rule set by the JIAL, especially in the case of female athletes who usually quit sports earlier and might not get a chance to represent Jordan abroad mainly because federations don't give due attention to women's teams.

Princess Haya said the rule might be good incentive for athletes to pursue their sport, adding that the League will look into teams and athletes who do not receive due attention from their respective federations.

"We will not forget any athlete who has contributed to Jordanian sports," said the Princess.

better national sports." To achieve this, the League will cooperate with sports federations, monitor local competitions and sponsor excellent athletes.

Barakat explained that the JIAL will be affiliated with the ministry of culture and that its scope of work will not in any way overlap with that of the sports federations.

"We will share JIAL's members' joys and sorrows and the League will make sure that all outstanding athletes will be properly awarded in appreciation of their efforts."



Action in the Real — Leverkusen match

Real Madrid bounce back

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid, docked a game for refusing to go to Croatia last week, bounced back with a handsome 106-91 win at Bayer Leverkusen in the European clubs' Basketball championship semifinal series Thursday.

The win made it seven from eight matches for the Spaniards, who head group B with 15 points.

Leverkusen fell behind 24-9 after only eight minutes, cheered on by 4,500 spectators in the sold-out arena. Bayer launched a furious effort and narrowed the score to 32-33 after 14 minutes.

But with U.S. mainstay Clinton Wheeler slowed by a groin injury

and German international Christian Whelp weakened by flu, Bayer fell away.

Weak defence and poor shooting left Bayer trailing 56-74 just after halftime and 76-91 after 36 minutes. Arvidas Sabonis led the way for Real with 22 points.

It was Leverkusen's third loss in eight games, putting them on 13 points.

Real remain in control despite the technical loss against Zadar declared after Real refused to travel to Croatia.

Real are appealing, arguing the Spanish government had warned travel to Croatia could be unsafe.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

New members elected to Ahli board

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four new members were elected to the Ahli Club board in general elections Thursday. The newly-elected members are Hani Bilal, Samir Jassakat, Ahmad Shafagaj and Ahmad Al Rashdan. 6 other members also sit on the board headed by Adnan Naghaway.

Saby stays well clear

PARIS (R) — French pair Hubert Auriol and Pierre Larigue produced a Citroen one-two in the Paris-Dakar Rally Thursday but they hardly dented Bruno Saby's overall supremacy. With only two days left in the Sahara marathon, runaway leader Saby enjoyed the full protection of his Mitsubishi team mates. Frenchman Saby was shadowed by his three running mates throughout the 224 kms ninth stage, a tough section comprising soft sand and type-shredding rocks which started and finished in Atar, Mauritania. "It was like the surface of the moon," said Saby.

Sampras to meet Muster in final; Capriati blasts Shriver to reach semis

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (AP) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras beat the heat and unseeded Amos Mansdorf 6-3, 7-5 Friday in the semifinals of the New South Wales Open tennis tournament.

In the final Saturday of the \$75,000 warmup for next week's Australian Open, Sampras will face seventh-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria, who breezed past Omar Camporese of Italy 6-4, 6-3.

Fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati, wasting no time on the steamy centre court, demolished fellow American Pam Shriver 6-0, 6-1 to set up a women's semifinal meeting with top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina. The defending champion outlasted unseeded Barbara Rittner of Germany 7-5, 6-3.

The other semi will pair No. 5 Andre Huber, a 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 victor over No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, against unseeded Amy Frazier, who beat fellow American Tami Whitlinger 6-1, 6-3.

Spectators were still using umbrellas for protection at Sampras' late-afternoon match against Mansdorf after court-side temperatures passed 40 C (104 F) under the relentless sun.

"It was unbelievably hot," a drained Sampras said. "You basically have to conserve energy. At times you have to lay off a little."

Sampras started off hot, breaking Mansdorf in the third game. He broke again at 5-3 on a pair of nearly identical forehand drives that hit the line and a volleying error by Mansdorf.

In the second set, Sampras had eight of his dozen aces to keep Mansdorf at bay, including two after he fell behind 0-40 while serving at 4-4.

"I was running out of gas at that point," Sampras said.

Mansdorf fended off one match point a game later on a second-serve ace to level the score at 5-5.

With a tiebreaker appearing imminent at 5-6, 40-15, three Mansdorf errors, and a let-court service return that dropped for a winner gave Sampras the match in an hour and 20 minutes.

Muster, who took three cold showers after his earlier match against Camporese, had little trouble with the unseeded Italian, who committed 39 unforced errors to 22 for the Austrian.

"We both had a big problem with the heat," Muster said. "It wasn't possible to play long rallies."

Capriati was even more relentless in blasting 21 winners to only two for the 30-year-old Shriver, who appeared overwhelmed by the Olympic gold medalist's pressure and the heat.

After dropping the first two points, Capriati won 32 of the next 42 while taking the first nine games.

When she finally held serve to pull within 3-1 in the second set, Shriver raised her arms in mock victory and slapped high-fives with two fans and a ball girl.

Capriati, who had looked vulnerable in her first two matches in this \$75,000 warmup for next week's Australian Open, looked sharp in all phases of her game, blasting four aces and ripping pinpoint passing shots when Shriver ventured to the net.

After Thursday's three-hour struggle against South Africa's Ros Fairbank-Nideffer, Capriati said she was looking for a shorter outing.

"I wanted to play well," she said. "I felt very good out there. I'm very happy with it."

She finished the match off almost exactly as she began, ripping a forehand down the line that landed inches inside the corner as Shriver watched helplessly.

"That's as easily as I've lost in a long while," Shriver said. "It gives you ego a kick. You just hope this is one of those excep-



Pete Sampras

tion things. When she's hitting her groundstrokes with such accuracy, I have a lot of problems."

While Shriver said Capriati is a definite threat to win the Australia

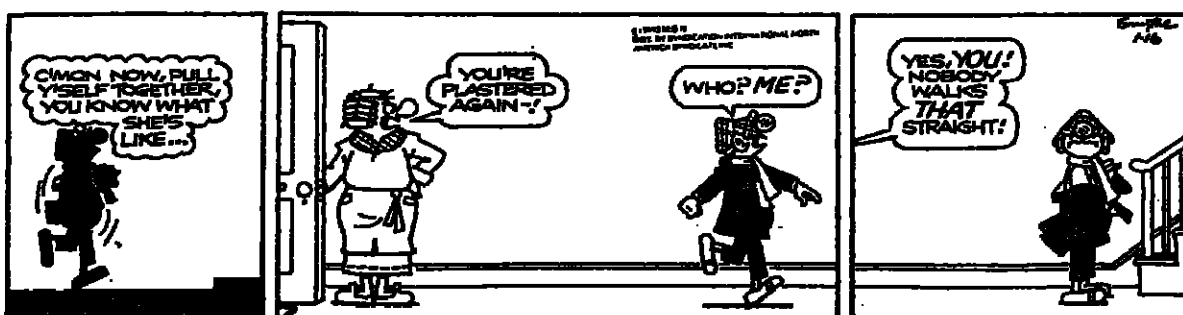
lian Open, she needs to work on her consistency.

"Jennifer is up and down still," she said. It takes an uncanny amount of consistency so your bad days are just little valleys."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 16, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Look to Venus and Mars make the early morning a good time to enlist the assistance you need to get household chores done. Throughout the day there is general cooperation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Private obligations and desires have a good chance of being manifested now even though you want to be to new activities but concentrate on secret aims.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go after those personal longings that mean so much to you and get partners to aid you in your search for happiness but much expense is unnecessary.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The energy you put at whatever your task now pays off in additional praise and respect from one in authority and don't let an associate take up valuable time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get together with new charms and those you already know to arrange some future recreation, don't be so tied down to work to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now have a good chance to arrange business and other practical affairs where your own clan is concerned, concentrate on this and be economical.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Communicate with partners

and outside associates and let them know how you feel you can unite forces more constructively and avoid a family squabble.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now have a chance to get more work from what you are doing by using more vitality in putting your views before those who remunerate your services.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have the inspiration to gain your loftiest aspirations by going after them with courage, confidence and steadfastness for success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Others have the power of the planets with them today so don't try to put your ideas in effect but go along with those with whom you have activities.

SAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Steer clear of financial entanglements today and put your efforts and searching out data you desire and attend to important correspondence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can get highly experienced experts in money and business interests to let you in on the best way that you can increase your assets.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A long time serious minded companions is the person to turn to now who will be able to direct your energies into channels to gain your aims.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Our marriage counselor told me to stop blaming everything on you. So now I blame everything on her!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

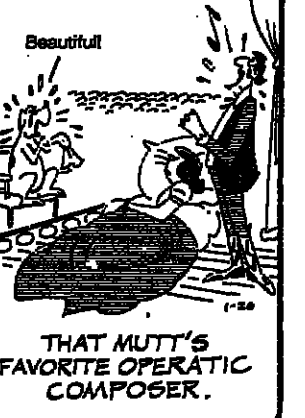
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MENGO

CHIRB

COULIN

LOEPE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

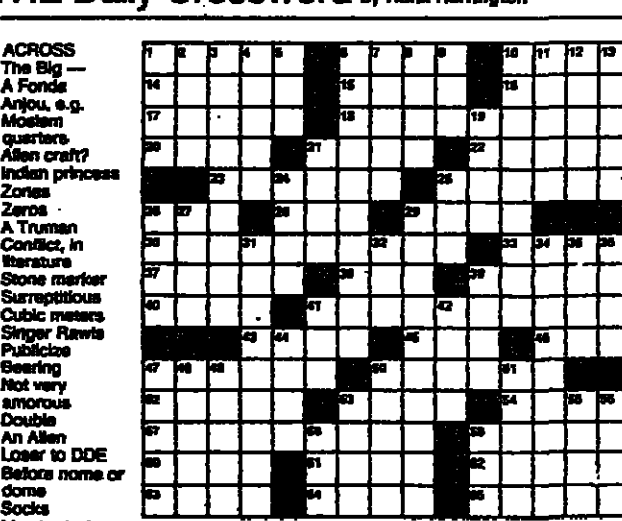
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRINY SHOWY BUOYED MARMOT

Answer: What the reformer and the hula dancer called each other — A BUSYBODY

THE Daily Crossword

by Hank Harrington



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:



53 Prima donna
55 Sensualist
56 Funny Latin
58 — the line (obey)
59 Lecture

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q10432 ♥KQ32 ♦J1087 ♣Void
Partner opens the bidding with two no-trump. What do you respond?

Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q10432 ♥KQ32 ♦J1087 ♣Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q10432 ♥KQ32 ♦J1087 ♣Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q10432 ♥KQ32 ♦J1087 ♣Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q10432 ♥KQ32 ♦J1087 ♣Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 13/1/93	Tokyo Close Date 14/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5493	1.5502
Deutsche Mark	1.6220	1.6205
Swiss Franc	1.4856	1.4845
French Franc	5.4985	5.4938
Japanese Yen	125.67	125.65
European Currency Unit	1.2095	1.2109

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Reurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.25	3.43	3.87
Sterling Pound	6.75	6.68	6.62	6.50
Deutsche Mark	6.56	6.37	6.00	7.43
Swiss Franc	5.50	5.43	5.31	5.12
French Franc	11.50	11.44	10.25	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.84	3.65	3.56	3.50
European Currency Unit	10.12	10.12	9.81	9.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	328.00	6.45	Silver	3.69

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.688	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0657	1.0710
Deutsche Mark	0.4242	0.4263
Swiss Franc	0.4631	0.4654
French Franc	0.1251	0.1257
Japanese Yen	0.5470	0.5497
Dutch Guilder	0.3772	0.3791
Swedish Krona	0.0934	0.0939
Italian Lira	0.0458	0.0460
Belgian Franc	0.02045	0.02055

* Per 100 Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8160
Lebanese Lira	0.036215	0.038315
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1844
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1864	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7730
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1878
Greek Drachma	0.31415	0.32415
Cypriot Pound	1.4245	1.4355

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	12/1/93	Close	13/1/93	Close
All-Share	182.04		180.49	
Banking Sector	130.71		130.73	
Insurance Sector	198.40		197.32	
Industry Sector	251.26		247.46	
Services Sector	249.46		246.26	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2810/15	Canadian dollar	1.6237/47
	1.8250/80	Deutsche marks	1.4845/55
	33.42/46	Dutch guilders	5.4950/5000
	1497/1502	Swiss francs	125.81/86
	125.81/86	Belgian francs	7.2180/280
	6.8800/900	French francs	6.2750/850
	1.5385/95	Italian lire	
One sterling	\$327.45/327.85	Japanese yen	
One ounce of gold		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

Private China foreign currency tops \$10b

HONG KONG (R) — Private holdings of foreign currency in China, once the almost exclusive preserve of the state, have hit more than \$10 billion, a Peking-owned Hong Kong newspaper has said.

Currently about \$10.2 billion worth of currencies from 32 countries ranging from the ubiquitous U.S. and Hong Kong dollars to the Russian rouble were held by the public, the New Evening Post said, quoting statistics.

State industry and banks once had a tight grip on foreign currency and the public could get hold of it only from relatives living abroad.

But since China introduced its open door policy in the late 1970s, foreign currency has poured into the country and the money is held both by individuals and non-state enterprises such as joint ventures with Hong Kong, Taiwan and overseas partners.

The daily said currency trading had also risen sharply. Besides swap centres — markets which have sprung up around the nation where enterprises can legally trade foreign currency — the volume of black market trading was huge.

This newspaper did not say where the statistics had come from or give any comparisons. But it said common foreign currencies in China included the U.S. dollar, yen, sterling and Hong Kong dollar.

With investment pouring into China from Hong Kong, the British colony's currency has become accepted tender in the cities of the southern Guangdong province.

Among the more exotic currencies circulating in China was the rouble. Border trade with Russia has grown rapidly in recent years as both countries have relaxed restrictions.

In another report, the China News Service reported China's booming southern province of Guangdong exported \$18.05 billion worth of goods in 1992, up 32 per cent on the year and accounting for a quarter of the national total.

Guangdong, which borders the British colony of Hong Kong, trades with 164 countries and areas, the Peking-controlled agency said.

It accounted for 20 per cent of China's exports in 1991.

Riots dampen hopes of foreign investment in India markets

BOMBAY (R) — Riots that have paralysed India's commercial capital for the second time in two months have further dampened hopes of attracting overseas investment into the country's turbulent stock markets, analysts said.

"Bombay's riots have altered perceptions of political stability because this is India's economic nerve centre," said Rafiq Dossani, adviser for mutual fund managers Jardine Fleming India Ltd and the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development.

Before the latest Hindu-Muslim riots, foreign fund managers had begun testing Indian markets with small purchases.

"Only recently Jardine and Aga Khan Fund made token investments with an idea to test the systems," Mr. Dossani said. The Aga Khan Fund bought shares in India's Housing Development Finance Corp. (HDFC), he added.

Analysts said it was unfortunate that chaos had hit Bombay just when foreign investors had begun trading on Indian stock markets. Now they could be more cautious.

"It's bad. It's a crazy situation," said Aspi Contractor, research head with DSP Financial Consultants. The political situation has to be stable for money to flow in, he said.

India opened its stock market to foreign institutional investors in September last year but a host of restrictive rules, the high price of blue chips and uncertainty about procedures stalled investment until about three weeks ago.

India, which launched a bold economic reform programme in mid-1991, reversing four decades of socialist policies, is wooing overseas investors into the stock market in order to reduce its dependence on foreign borrowing, analysts said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the main

German economy achieves lowest growth for 10 years in 1992

FRANKFURT (R) — Germany's economy, the biggest in Europe, turned in its worst performance in 10 years in 1992, burdened by slowdown elsewhere and record high domestic interest rates designed to squeeze out post-unification inflation.

The German Statistics Office said western Germany's gross national product (GNP) expanded by a real 0.8 per cent in 1992 — its lowest rise since the recession year of 1982 — after a 3.6 per cent gain in 1991.

Gross domestic product (GDP) climbed 1.5 per cent in 1992 after a rise of 3.7 per cent in 1991. GNP is the total output of goods and services as well as certain transfers, while GDP omits income from abroad.

"The economic climate in Germany cooled off sharply in the second half of the year," Hans Guenther Merk, president of the German Statistics Office, told a news conference. "The situation is frail."

Mr. Merk said that the one-time boost the economy had received from German unification in 1990 had lost momentum in 1992. The contractive effects of economic slowdown in key overseas markets also weighed increasingly on the German economy.

"There were no noticeable impulses from the domestic economy in 1992," he said. But Mr. Merk added that it was "premature to speak of a recession."

Economists said the Bundesbank's record high interest rates, especially its controversial move to tighten monetary policy last July when Germany's trading partners were clamouring for lower rates, had had a negative impact on the economy.

The statistics office said pan-German GNP climbed 1.3 per cent in 1992 and pan-German GDP 1.9 per cent.

The total nominal output of Germany's GNP reached 3,003.5 billion marks in 1992. Of that amount, 2,772.0 billion marks were from west Germany and 231.5 billion from east Germany. East Germany's GNP accounted for eight per cent of the pan-German total in 1992, up from 6.9 per cent in 1991.

Slow growth forces Japanese auto makers to link-up operations

TOKYO (R) — Suzuki Motors Ltd.'s recent announcement that it will put out of car production may be only the first move in a rationalisation process the industry needs to cope with a new era of slow growth, analysts have said.

The auto industry needs to recognise that the days of growth have come to an end," said Neal Doying, analyst at Baring Securities. "This shows that they do recognise this."

Suzuki said it will abandon development of new car models and phase out production over the coming months, cutting the number of Japanese car makers to eight from nine.

Instead, under a new deal to be made final by the end of March this year, it will sell about 10,000

As part of the same agreement, Suzuki will supply Honda with around 20,000 recreational vehicles a year, made by Subaru-Suzuki Automotive Inc. (SIA), its U.S. manufacturing joint venture with Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., for sale in the United States.

By allowing it to increase production volume at SIA, the agreement with Honda provides at least partly solves the problem of how to replace revenue lost from ending car production.

An Isuzu spokesman said it means SIA can boost its production to full capacity, about 90,000 units a year.

For Honda it fills a gap in an important market segment, as recreational vehicles and trucks account for an increasing share of total automobile sales.

Honda does not produce such a vehicle itself, and U.S. auto dealers have been complaining that customers go elsewhere to find off-road vehicles for Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp.

Though Honda is developing a truck-like vehicle of its own, a company spokesman said he did not expect production to start for over a year.

"It's a perfect sourcing agreement for Honda," said Merrill Lynch's Moyer. "I think it's a good deal for both companies."

Honda's off-roader will be of a different type to the "sports utility vehicle" Isuzu will supply, so production by Honda need not mean the end of the new agreement.

This kind of rationalisation is increasingly common in all kinds of manufacturing industries, as a combination of slow market growth and a widening variety of products means companies can no longer stay on the leading edge in everything.

Instead they are streamlining operations to concentrate on their strengths, using tie-ups with other companies to supply the rest.

Though there may be a repeat of deals like the Honda-Isuzu one, Merrill Lynch's Moyer said it is unlikely that another Japanese maker would pull out of cars in the immediate future.

Isuzu operations are heavily weighted towards trucks, vans and recreational vehicles, with cars accounting for somewhere in the region of a tenth of unit sales.

If any of the remaining eight manufacturers were to abandon cars the impact would be far greater.

Indonesian budget gets good reception

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's new budget got a warm reception as analysts said it was realistic and certain to please the country's major aid donors.

The budget for 1993/94 (April-March), which will increase 11.1 per cent, puts more money into improving infrastructure, pushing up non-oil exports and consolidating economic growth.

"I was impressed," one Western diplomat who specialises in the economy said of the generally upbeat tone of President Suharto's budget speech to parliament.

Another analyst said the clear hand of the country's economic managers could be seen in Mr. Suharto's pragmatic speech, which gave no concessions to the presidential election in March.

Prices on the stock market got a small boost on the projections for a healthier economy in 1993.

"The tone of the budget is very optimistic. The economy can consolidate and grow a little more," the treasury manager of one major private bank said.

The budget predicts gross domestic product will rise in 1993/94 by six per cent, about the same as this year.

Inflation is put at around five per cent and both the debt service ratio and current account deficit are expected to fall.

"It looks realistic," one economist said. "It seems to be in line with overall economic policies for stability."

He said Indonesia was not letting go of its restrained monetary policy of the past two years, but had given itself a bit more room to move in order to help along the ailing private sector.

Some expressed concerns about the budget's hefty wage increase of up to 18 per cent for the country's poorly paid civil servants. One analyst said the rise should have been accompanied by measures to reform the unwieldy and overstuffed bureaucracy.

The government's projections for tax revenue, including an almost 36 per cent rise in income tax revenue, also appear too high unless collection is substantially improved, analysts said.

"There is a need to improve collection of indirect taxes," one economist said.

The biggest cheer from economists came for a politically sensitive proposal to increase domestic fuel prices.

Mr. Suharto went to considerable lengths to explain the need to cut subsidies, especially those of kerosene and diesel, which will have an immediate impact on the poorest of Indonesia's 180 million people.

Indonesia's aid donors have long been pressing Jakarta to eliminate the subsidies to reduce demand and relieve the burden on the government's already stretched resources.

Mr. Suharto gave no details of the price increases, but it was speculated they would be announced later this month.

One analyst said the rise would probably push inflation up no more than one per cent.

"The important thing for inflation is that economic policies are right. This is a one-off shot. It is tolerable," he said.

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Bombay riots signal threat to India—Rao

BOMBAY (R)—Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao warned India Friday it was in danger of breaking apart if communal hatred that triggered 10 days of communal rioting in Bombay was allowed to fester and spread.

"If this country forsakes secularism it will break. I am absolutely convinced of that," Mr. Rao told reporters after touring riot-hit areas of Bombay, where hundreds of shops, homes and cars have been set ablaze in violence that has left at least 500 dead.

The 71-year-old prime minister said India had been disfigured in the eyes of the world by recent rioting which erupted after the destruction of a 16th century mosque by Hindu militants in the northern town of Ayodhya last month.

Mr. Rao said the "communal virus" must be eradicated.

"We need a sustained programme to bring back secularism," he declared, saying that in the past Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Parsis had lived together mostly in harmony despite the agony and bloodshed of partition in 1947.

At least 1,100 people were killed in last month's riots across the country, India, a country of 870 million people of whom around 100 million are Muslims, also faces bloodshed in the northern states of Punjab, Kashmir and Assam.

The prime minister warned that communal passions were being roused across the country.

"The virus is slowly spreading... it is appearing in places where it had absolutely no base before," he was not sure what was causing it, he said, but he blamed some politicians for fanning the hatred. The government ordered the arrest of leaders of the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after the razing of the Ayodhya mosque, but Mr. Rao refused to be drawn on any fresh arrests.

The riots in Bombay, and the challenge to secularism "goes to the very root of the existence of the nation," said the Congress Party leader who came to power after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a bomb attack in 1991.

He warned that the Bombay riots, which have triggered the exodus of tens of thousands of Muslims from the city, "could be the precursor of other similar disturbances."

The Times of India has called the riots a systematic "pogrom" organised by militant Hindu groups to drive out Muslims.

Bombay's hardline Hindu leader Bal Thackeray said in an interview Friday that Muslim provocation had started the riots in the city.

"Hindus have woken up from their slumber of several centuries and are ready to fight and sacrifice their lives to get justice," Mr. Thackeray said.

Local Muslim religious leaders in Bombay called for the city of 12 million which is India's banking and business centre to be handed over to the army until order was fully restored.

Renewed clashes were reported Friday, but police said for the most part the city was tense but calm after 10 days of sustained riots in which people have been torched to death and hundreds of homes burnt to the ground.

The prime minister called for a judicial enquiry into the cause of the riots, and announced compensation for families of those killed or maimed in the wave of stabbings and arson attacks that erupted in the city on Jan. 6.

Mr. Rao promised loans would be provided to those who had lost their shops or businesses in the carnage, so that they could start earning their living again. A fund would be set up to rebuild all places of worship damaged in the rioting.

He called for the exodus of frightened families from the city to stop. Around 40,000 people have fled the city.

The prime minister acknowledged that the riots in Bombay had caused renewed worries among foreign investors at a time when the country was in the middle of a major series of economic reforms.

Losses to industry are estimated at around \$300 million, business leaders said.

"The events in Bombay have given a jolt to the whole nation," he said.

Danish premier resigns

COPENHAGEN (AP)—Prime Minister Poul Schluter, implicated in a 1987 visa scandal, tendered his resignation to Queen Margrethe Friday and the search began for a new leader.

After a brief visit to Amalienborg Palace, Mr. Schluter said his centre-right minority government will stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new leader has been named, possibly Poul Nyrup Rasmussen whose Social Democrats have been in opposition for 10 years.

Mr. Schluter said he advised the queen to appoint a new prime minister or a politician to mediate the search for one. The monarch was to consult later Friday with leaders of the eight parties in the 179-seat parliament on a replacement for Mr. Schluter.

The political crisis comes at a time when Denmark holds the presidency of the European Community (EC).

This has raised questions if Denmark can stay on top of a top-heavy EC agenda that includes a second Danish referendum on European union after Denmark won exemptions from a common defence and currency at an EC summit meeting last month.

Mr. Schluter himself has suggested Finance Minister Henning Dyreboe, 47, a fellow conservative and the architect of Denmark's healthy economy, as his successor.

But it was unlikely opposition parties will accept him, meaning the search for another politician may take several days.

Mr. Schluter said Thursday he would step down, hours after the release of an official inquiry that found he covered up an illegal policy of delaying visas for relatives of Tamil refugees living in Denmark.

The report said Mr. Schluter knew a former justice minister violated Danish law in 1987 by barring relatives of Tamil refugees from coming here and that he misled parliament several times on the issue.

Waiting in the wings to succeed Mr. Schluter was Mr. Rasmussen, whose Social Democratic Party holds 69 of the 179 seats in parliament.

Like Mr. Schluter's conservative-liberal alliance, Mr. Rasmussen will need the backing of three smaller opposition parties to remain in power.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge blocks anti-gay amendment

DENVER (AP)—A Judge late Thursday temporarily blocked Colorado's anti-gay-protection law from taking effect Friday. Denver District Judge Jeffrey Bayless said he wanted more time to decide whether to issue a more permanent ban. Amendment 2, approved by Colorado voters on Nov. 3, prohibits state and local governments from passing laws that protect homosexuals from discrimination. Laws on the books in Boulder, Denver and Aspen that protect homosexuals from discrimination would be invalidated. The measure has provoked a national outcry by homosexual-rights supporters and has spurred several major cities and national organisations to boycott Colorado. Several major conventions have been cancelled and some celebrities have shunned Aspen as a vacation spot. Governor Roy Romer said earlier Thursday he would sign amendment 2 into law Friday unless Mr. Bayless directed him not to. Homosexual-rights advocates and three Colorado cities want bayless to stop enforcement of amendment 2 until a lawsuit challenging it, filed by eight homosexuals and a heterosexual with AIDS, is settled. That probably would be late this year. Mr. Bayless heard testimony all week from more than a dozen witnesses on the request for a temporary ban. Mr. Bayless must find that Colorado homosexuals are in danger of "real, immediate and irreparable" injury and have a reasonable chance of winning their lawsuit before he could justify issuing an injunction, attorneys have said.

Volcanic erupts in southern Colombia

BOGOTA (AP)—A volcano being studied by top researchers erupted Thursday, spewing a huge column of ash and killing at least six scientists taking gas samples on its side, according to the Colombian Red Cross. Eight other scientists—three Americans and five Colombians—were injured and 10 were missing, the Red Cross said. The names of those killed or injured were not immediately available. "I can hear people below in the crater screaming for help," said radio reporter Jose Meneses. Rescue workers were turned back by showers of super-heated rocks and ash on the 4,276 metre high Galeras volcano near Pasto, about 600 kilometres south of Bogota. The eruption occurred near 100 volcanologists and other scientists were in Pasto for a conference on the Galeras volcano. Caracol Radio said as many as 30 people may have been on the side of the volcano when it erupted.

Maxwell's possessions auctioned for \$774,238

LONDON (AP)—Eager buyers paid a total of \$506,038 (\$774,238) Thursday for the furniture and other personal possessions of late media magnate Robert Maxwell, auctioneers Sotheby's reported. Sotheby's had originally estimated that Thursday's sale would raise only about \$500,000 (\$499,000). The sale at the auctioneers' headquarters in London was ordered by Buchler Phillips and Co., the accountancy company was appointed receiver to Maxwell's private estate following his death in 1991 and his subsequent disappearance. The company said it had found debts and fraud. Officials have found that Maxwell plundered pension funds of British companies he controlled to pay off debts and cover operating costs of his private companies. His business empire included the Daily Mirror in London and the New York Daily News. He was found dead in the sea off the Canary Islands on Nov. 5, 1991. He was 68. He had been cruising in the area in his yacht. The Daily Mirror said last year that faced with his thefts and business collapse, he most probably committed suicide.

Baboon liver patient not recovering

PITTSBURGH (R)—The world's second baboon to human liver transplant recipient has failed to fully awaken four days after his Jan. 10 surgery, possibly because his liver wasn't functioning as well as anticipated, doctors said. As a result doctors performed a liver biopsy on the patient, a 62-year-old man Thursday, a university of Pittsburgh Medical Centre spokeswoman said. She said results of the one-hour biopsy procedure, performed in the operating room, would not be available until late Friday. The second baboon-liver recipient was ill with hepatitis B before he received his new liver in a 13-hour operation Sunday. Doctors had estimated the patient would have survived for less than a month without the transplant. The University of Pittsburgh hospital also was the site of the world's first baboon-to-human liver transplant operation, performed last June 28. That patient, an unidentified 35-year-old man whose liver also was ravaged by hepatitis B, survived for 70 days before dying from a stroke attributed to an infection. Pittsburgh doctors believe that baboon livers are resistant to infection with hepatitis B.

'Stealthiness' said improved

WASHINGTON (AP)—The military has found a way to make the B-2 "Stealth" bomber as evasive as originally promised, Air Force Secretary Donald B. Rice said Thursday. Several modifications to the plane's surface and edge structure will give it "the levels of survivability that were intended in the beginning," Mr. Rice said. The planes, which cost more than \$2 billion each to build, have been plagued by detectability problems since 1991, and since then the air force has been exploring several possible fixes. In May, it said the B-2s might never meet the original specifications for evasiveness. The air force, which originally wanted 132 B-2s, has settled on a fleet of 20, with the final four still awaiting congressional approval. But Mr. Rice said changes "on a number of things, on a number of spots on the plane" would allow the air force to achieve its goal of minimal detectability. The plane is designed to be less visible to radar.

Showdown averted after Yeltsin rescinds ban

MOSCOW (AP)—The constitutional court Friday postponed a hearing which could have led to a showdown between President Boris Yeltsin and a key hardline opposition group. Mr. Yeltsin had banned the National Salvation Front on Oct. 28, but Wednesday issued a broader decree which banned all organisations that try to overthrow the government or stir up ethnic and religious strife. A court spokesman said the case, originally scheduled for Friday, had been postponed until February. Hardliners contended that Mr. Yeltsin exceeded his constitutional authority when he outlawed the front.

Bush bids farewell to U.S. military

FORT MYER, Virginia (R)—President George Bush bid an emotional farewell to arms Thursday, saying goodbye to the U.S. armed forces and declaring they had been an overwhelming influence on his own life. In an hour-long ceremony at Fort Myer, an army base adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery, the outgoing president and his wife Barbara were heaped with awards and praise by the U.S. military. Mr. Bush returned the accolades, saying America's armed forces were "the finest in the world."

Clinton names first woman press secretary, party leader

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (Agencies)—President-elect Bill Clinton has named his campaign press aide Dee Myers as the first woman White House press secretary Thursday and said transition spokesman George Stephanopoulos would be his communications director.

In filling out his White House team just days before his Jan. 20 swearing-in as the 42nd U.S. president, Mr. Clinton also filled numerous other top White House jobs including:

—Mark Gearan, a senior campaign aide and transition deputy director, as White House deputy chief of staff.

—Arkansas Attorney Bruce Lindsey, one of Mr. Clinton's closest associates, to be assistant to the president and senior adviser as well as director of the White House office of personnel.

—Longtime aide Carol Rasco as assistant to the president for domestic policy.

—Campaign economic policy adviser Gene Sperling to be deputy assistant to the president for economic policy.

Mr. Clinton also revealed his choice for two top Democratic Party positions.

He said he would recommend that his campaign manager David Wilhelm be made national chairman of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Wilhelm's selection must be ratified by the Democratic National Committee but its vote is considered a formality since the winning presidential candidate traditionally hand-picks the party chairman.

"We will make the White House a place of teamwork and free flow of ideas," Mr. Clinton told a news conference in Little Rock. "I want the best and most creative advice I can get across the broad range of areas with which we must deal."

"We have an opportunity to turn the Democratic Party into a governing coalition of a majority of Americans for change," Mr. Clinton said in introducing Mr. Wilhelm, who will direct Mr. Clinton's political operation from party headquarters.

Then, after weeks of jockeying and shuffling that continued until the eve of the announcement, Mr. Clinton released more than 50 appointments to the staff of his office and those of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice-President-elect Al Gore.

Most of those named worked in the campaign or transition, or both. Twenty-three of the appointments went to women, from Press Secretary Myers and domestic policy adviser Rasco to the entire staff, so far, of Mrs. Clinton's office.

54 dead in Polish ferry capsizing off Germany

STRALSUND, Germany (AP)—As many as 54 people are feared dead after a Polish ferry capsized in near-freezing water, and a rescue official said anyone left aboard has little chance of survival.

The 135-metre Jan Heweliusz was upside down in waters about 20 metres deep after capsizing Thursday at the height of a storm that whipped up 150 kilometres per hour winds. Waves washed across its upturned red hull, and an overturned lifeboat bobbed nearby.

Nine people were rescued and 39 bodies recovered, said Helmut Meier, spokesman of the German fleet command in Guecksburg. He said about 15 others were missing, probably still inside the vessel.

Their chances of surviving in the 2 degree Celsius (36 Fahrenheit) waters were low, Mr. Meier said.

"We can't let our divers in until it's secured and we know they have a chance to get out," Mr. Meier said in a telephone interview.

Police in Stralsund said the craft, bound from Poland to Sweden, overturned about 30 kilometres east of the German island of Ruegen.

A Polish survivor said he and seven other crew escaped in a lifeboat, but were at the mercy of the cold and the violent storm before being saved by a rescue ship.

"Two (crew members) died before our eyes," said the man, interviewed on television in a Stralsund hospital.

"Water was flooding over us. The wind was very strong. We were fished out after about 3½ hours."

The ferry capsized before dawn after the hurricane-force storm apparently causing its cargo of heavy trucks and rail freight cars to shift.

Some survivors were in critical condition from hypothermia, according to rescue workers in Stralsund, a coastal town near the Polish border.

The 3,015-tonne ferry was carrying 29 crew members and 39 passengers from Swinoujcie, Poland, to the Swedish port of Ystad, according to Włodzimierz Matuszewski, the ferry company's director, who spoke on Polish television.

Other reports put the number of passengers at 60 to 68. Most were said to be Poles, with some Swedes, Danes, Czechs, Austrians and Hungarians.

Haitians bitter over Clinton policy switch

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP)—Haitians reacted with bitterness but not despair to President-elect Bill Clinton's decision to keep a tough, quick-return policy for people fleeing this desperately poor nation.

Despite the announcement, every person approached downtown Port-Au-Prince said they believed Mr. Clinton would work harder than President George Bush to bring back President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted by the army in September 1991.

Humanitarian aid officials said they did not know if the news would discourage Haitians from risking their lives at sea to flee political persecution and economic hardship.

In interviews before Mr. Clinton's announcement Thursday, some fleeing refugees said there was nothing he could do to stop them from trying again.

U.S. policymakers and south Florida officials have worried that up to 100,000 Haitians would set sail for Miami after Wednesday's inauguration. During his campaign, Mr. Clinton had encouraged Haitians by attacking Mr. Bush's practice of quickly sending

back boat people on the ground most fled poverty, not political repression.

"Clinton's decision is a moral blemish. To redeem himself, he will really have to fulfill his promise to restore democracy (in Haiti)," Evans Paul, the capital's mayor under Mr. Aristide, said Thursday.

Marlene Douffueille, director of the private permanent refugee service, said Thursday's developments should teach this nation a bitter lesson—"Haitians should count on themselves first, and then see what other people can do."

Mr. Clinton's Voice of American message to the Haitian people boomed out from a radio on the airport tarmac as scores of people who tried to flee were being repatriated from Cuba.

Also Thursday, the U.S. Coast Guard returned 140 more boat people plucked from 1.3-metre high seas Wednesday night off northern Haiti.

None showed much emotion when told of Mr. Clinton's decision. Under the eyes of police, few even professed to know who he was.

Honecker hospitalised in Chile

SANTIAGO (AP)—Former East German leader Erich Honecker arrived here Thursday and was immediately hospitalised for treatment of the liver cancer that halted his trial back in Germany.

Mr. Honecker arrived to an emotional reunion with his wife Margot and daughter Sonja, and to a warm welcome by a small group of Chilean leftists, one day after Berlin courts freed him from prison.

The 80-year-old unrepentant communist appeared tired as he stepped off the Brazilian aircraft.

Mr. Honecker lifted his right hand to acknowledge applause from the group of well wishers, then embraced and kissed his relatives.

He said meeting his wife again "fulfilled my last personal wish."

"I thought I would never see my beloved wife and brave comrade again," he read from a handwritten statement at the airport.

A Chilean doctor briefly checked Mr. Honecker at the airport before his departure to Las Condes, a private clinic in Santiago.

Mr. Honecker was being held in Berlin since last November on manslaughter charges in the deaths of 13 people believed to be among 350 East Germans killed while trying to escape to the West through the now-demolished Berlin Wall.

Mr. Honecker supervised the construction of the wall in 1961, and staunchly defended it as protection against what he called Western imperialism.

The courts this week halted the trial because of Mr. Honecker's rapidly advancing liver cancer, which doctors predict will kill him within six months.

Mr. Honecker's arrival brought Chile back to the centre of a case that created political problems for the government of President Patricio Aylwin.

After the collapse of his 19-year-old regime in 1989, Mr. Honecker and his wife took refuge in a Soviet military hospital in April 1990 and escaped to Moscow a year later.

As communism also collapsed in the Soviet Union, Mr. Honecker and his wife, threatened with expulsion to Germany, sought refuge at the Chilean embassy.

Italian police arrest mafia 'boss of bosses'

ROME (Agencies)—Italian police Friday arrested Salvatore "Totò" Riina, alleged mafia "boss of bosses" who has been on the run for over 20 years, a government spokesman said.

He was arrested in a car in the Sicilian capital Palermo and put up no resistance to officers. Deputy Premier Fabio Fabbri told a news conference in Rome.

The 62-year-old Riina is said to head the Corleone family in the Sicilian underworld. It is considered the ruling clan.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987 for ordering a series of murders and directing heroin trafficking. He was convicted after being tried in absentia.

Premier Giuliano Amato's government had set as its goal the capture of Mr. Riina, who is believed to have altered his facial features to avoid arrest as he presumably moved from hideout to hideout.

The most recent photograph of Mr. Riina available to investigators dated the 1960s.

"I always said my greatest aspiration was to arrest Riina," said Interior Minister Nicola Mancino. "From this arrest I draw encouragement that we can continue to threaten the 'cupola' (ruling mafiosi) which seemed unreachable."

Police gave few immediate details of the arrest, saying that Mr. Riina was in a car with other people who had false identifica-

tion papers and therefore not immediately identified. The arrest occurred at 8:30 a.m.

A leading police informant recently told authorities that Mr. Riina, in all his years as a fugitive, would be driven around in an armoured car on the streets of Palermo. The informant called Mr. Riina the "boss of bosses."

The arrest of Mr. Riina follows the murders of Italy's two leading anti-mafia investigators last year and a series of successful raids against the mafia.

Mr. Riina's arrest was the heaviest blow against the mafia for many years.

Mr. Riina was head of the Corleone clan and Interior Minister Mancino said he held him personally responsible for two of the mafia's biggest outrages—the bomb killings of anti-mafia judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino last year in Palermo.

"We have freed ourselves of an enormous weight," said national police chief Vincenzo Parisi. "It was very important that he was taken alive because of all the things he knows."

Asked if Mr. Riina was still Italy's top mafia boss, Mr. Mancino said:

"According to our information he was. But there was strong disagreement within the organisation. The leadership was being criticised as well as the methods chosen to develop criminal activity."

Charles will ride out love-tape scandal, British newspapers say

LONDON (R)—Britain's Prince Charles is determined to survive a scandal over his steamy relationship with a married woman and hopes that his future subjects will forgive him, newspapers reported Friday.

Supporters of the heir to the throne, who are widely held to brief certain newspapers on his behalf, were quoted as saying there was a sense of relief that a long-threatened storm had finally broken and a royal fight-back could begin.

Prince Charles suffered acute embarrassment this week when tapes of a reported telephone love chat with his long-standing confidante, Camilla Parker-Bowles, were published around the world in salacious detail.

The so-called "Camillagate" tape added the charge of infidelity to an already serious row over the prince's separation from his popular wife Princess Diana and showed serious doubts about his chances of ever being crowned king.

But the Daily Mail and the Today newspaper quoted friends of Prince Charles as saying he had resolved to soldier on with his royal role and to rebuild his shattered reputation.

This appeared to be a tacit admission that the sexually explicit taped conversation, recorded in 1989, was genuine.

"This was a sword of Damocles hanging over him. The worst is over now," the Daily Mail quoted a "friend" as saying in a report

headlined: "They will forgive me."

Today's report quoted the source as saying "there is already a view that the worst is out and there is now only one way to go—and that is back up again."

But other royal-watchers wondered whether the much-maligned prince could really expect to recover his standing, whatever his friends might say. Rumours are already flying that he may eventually choose love over royal duty, renounce the throne, as King Edward VIII did in the 1936 abdication crisis, and try to rebuild a private life.

Both tabloids which carried the prince's reported reaction to the Queen Elizabeth's Balmoral

estate in Scotland with friends and advisers to gauge the extent of the crisis.

Britain's press has held back, so far, from printing the complete text of the alleged conversation with Mrs. Parker-Bowles because of threatened curbs on the excesses by the media.

But newspapers elsewhere printed the exchange in full, casting a shadow over the prince's reputation in countries which he often visits as a royal ambassador for Britain.

Italy's L'Indipendente described Queen Elizabeth's remark as "Charles, the porno prince."

"It is difficult to imagine that this is the same man who talks to forget-me-nots, defends Camilla

and paints delicate watercolours in Tuscany," said France's Le Figaro, expressing surprise that the so-called philosopher prince had an earthier side.

The tape apparently records the prince proclaiming his desire for Mrs. Parker-Bowles, a 45-year-old brigadier's wife whom he has known for 20 years. The couple arrange assignments, make saucy jokes and express mutual love and devotion.

Critics said the revelations dragged the monarchy into the gutter and made a royal divorce a near certainty.

The Sun, which tends to be sympathetic towards Prince Diana despite printing details last year of a taped conversation between her and a male admirer,

said she was appalled by the "smutty" language on the tape and the deception it revealed.

The feuding couple have fought their marital battles through the press for months, a fact finally confirmed this week when the head of a media watchdog said he had been reliably informed that the two camps briefed rival newspapers.

An ICM poll in the Today newspaper found that a majority of people thought the revelations of media manipulation had damaged the princess's golden reputation.

One in three of the 715 people questioned in the telephone poll also said Prince Charles's image had been sullied by the Camillagate affair.

COLUMN delivers healthy baby

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP)—An eight-year-old girl has given birth to a healthy boy, a spokesman for the national medical centre of the West Hospital has confirmed. Both the mother and the baby are in "perfect condition," after the delivery by caesarian section Tuesday in the Guadalajara hospital, Dr. Ever Rodriguez Arias said. The baby weighed 3.15 kilograms and was delivered after a normal nine-month pregnancy, he said. The girl comes from northern Mexico, and the parents did not want her name released, he said. Hospital officials said they did not know the identity of the father. Dr. Arias said he believed the girl was the youngest mother ever in Mexico. The Guinness Book of world records no longer keeps records of young mothers. The mother and child were expected to be released within a few days.

Donate blood, watch 'Dracula'

AMIENS, France (AP)—The owner of two movie theatres is offering free tickets to Francis Ford Coppola's "Dracula"—provided the viewer is a certified volunteer blood donor. The film opened in Amiens Wednesday, and the two theatres drew about 1,000 spectators, about 10 percent of them with cards showing they were blood donors. The owner, Jean-Pierre Houbart, said he invited the regional blood transfusion centre to park a mobile unit outside either of the theatres to solicit more donations. He said the centre accepted in principle but preferred to wait for a different film.

'Put the lid down please'

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP)—Even when the toilet costs \$23 million, some folks can't seem to remember to put the lid down. The crew of four men and one woman aboard space shuttle Endeavour got a scolding when mission control Thursday noticed that a fan on the experimental new toilet was still running—meaning the lid was still up. Mission control's Carl Meade had astronaut Gregory B. Burchard take care of the problem. "And Endeavour, in the future, we would like you to make sure that lid is closed and that fan cycles off, if you could remember," Mr. Meade said. "Ok, Carl," Mr. Burchard said. "That's a good reminder." There was no word on which astronaut was the offender. Endeavour's astronauts are the first to test the new toilet. It can accommodate much more waste than the old model—essential if shuttle flights are to exceed two weeks—but has been criticised because of its price.

Free 'Playboy'

THE HAGUE (AP)—The Royal Dutch Army is sending a free copy of Playboy magazine to each of its soldiers in the U.N. Yugoslav peacekeeping force, officials said. The 1,100 issues were donated by the Dutch edition of Chicago-based Playboy magazine, but have been sent to the forces by the army's recreation and development office in the Hague. Paul Hartman, the army's chief spokesman, acknowledged that some of the men and women in uniform may be offended by the photographs of nude women. But he said it is a matter of "personal choice" whether a soldier accepts the gift.

Letterman leaving NBC for CBS

NEW YORK (AP)—The duel over David Letterman ended Thursday when he told his "Late Night" audience he'll be taking his "stupid pet tricks" and top 10 lists from NBC to CBS. The irascible talk-show host did not give details of the move except to say that his last show on NBC would be June 25. CBS was expected to announce later that it had signed him for an 11:30 p.m. talk show, smack against his old friend Jay Leno and NBC's "The Tonight Show." Mr. Letterman's decision to leave NBC was fuelled by public dissatisfaction with his bosses, who had passed over as successor to Johnny Carson, and a fervent courtship by CBS. CBS was believed to have offered him \$14 million to \$16 million annually at NBC. During the afternoon taping of his show Thursday, Mr. Letterman tipped his hand by starting with a joke about how he would be visiting outgoing President George Bush to pick up any extra moving boxes.

